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FILING DATE: *March 24, 2004*

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PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT COVER SHEET

This is a request for filing a PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT under 37 CFR 1.53(c).

INVENTOR(S)					
Given name (first and middle [if any])	Family Name or Surname	Residence (city and either State or Foreign Country)			
Steven A.	Boyd	Longmont, CO			
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional inventors are being named on the __ separately numbered sheets attached hereto					
TITLE OF THE INVENTION (280 characters max)					
THIAZOLIUMS AS TRANSKETOLASE INHIBITORS					
Direct all correspondence to: CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Customer Number	1473		Place Customer Number Bar Code Label here		
OR	Type Customer Number here				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Firm or Individual Name	Fish & Neave Min Wang				
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ENCLOSED APPLICATION PARTS (check all that apply)					
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s)	Number of Sheets	0	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Application Data Sheet.	See 37 CFR 1.76				
METHOD OF PAYMENT OF FILING FEES FOR THIS PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.					FILING FEE AMOUNT (\$)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A check or money order is enclosed to cover the filing fees					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge filing fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account Number:	06-1075				\$80.00
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The invention was made by an agency of the United States Government or under a contract with an agency of the United States Government.					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No.					
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, the name of the U.S. Government agency and the Government contract number are:					

Respectfully submitted,

SIGNATURE

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03/24/04

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USE ONLY FOR FILING A PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT

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PATENTS
Attorney Docket No. GEN/034PROV

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT APPLICATION

Applicant : Steven A. Boyd
For : THIAZOLIUMS AS TRANSKETOLASE INHIBITORS

MAIL STOP PROVISIONAL APPLICATION
Hon. Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
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Date of Deposit: March 24, 2004

I hereby certify that this certification and the following papers and fees:

1. Provisional Application Cover Sheet (in duplicate);
2. Specification (fifty three (53) pages);
3. Check in the amount of \$80.00; and
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are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "EXPRESS MAIL POST OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to Mail Stop PROVISIONAL PATENT APPLICATION, Hon. Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.



Claire J. Saintil-van Goodman

THIAZOLIUMS AS TRANSKETOLASE INHIBITORS

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present invention relates to N-3'-pyridylmethyl or N-2'-pyrazinylmethyl thiazolium derivatives useful as transketolase inhibitors. The invention provides methods of using these compounds or pharmaceutical compositions comprising these compounds to inhibit transketolase activity. The invention further provides methods of utilizing these compounds or pharmaceutical compositions in the treatment and prevention of cancer.

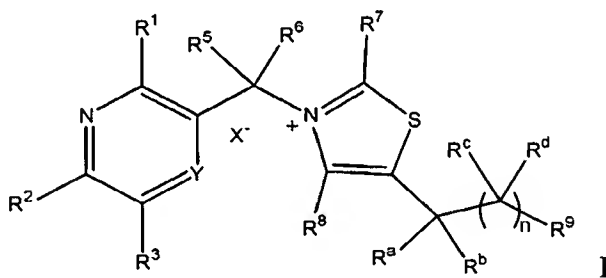
BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] Advanced cancer patients are often deficient in, and their diets thus supplemented with, thiamine (vitamin B1), which is also a common additive in Western world foods as mammals lack the ability to synthesize thiamine. Thiamine is converted to thiamine pyrophosphate (TPP) which is a necessary cofactor for transketolase, a key enzyme in non-oxidative pentose phosphate pathways which shunt carbon away from glycolytic intermediates and form ribose-5-phosphate for increased nucleic acid biosynthesis. Such pathways are often stimulated in situations of active cell proliferation, such as in tumor cells, where lack of oxygen can stimulate non-oxidative pathways which further deprive cells of reducing compounds (e.g., NADP) required for many normal cellular functions. Transketolase has been postulated to be a useful target for the development of anti-cancer therapies which inhibit nucleic acid biosynthetic pathways.

[0003] Reported transketolase inhibitors include oxythiamine, 3-[(2-amino-6-methyl-3-pyridinyl)methyl]-5-(2-hydroxyethyl)-4-methyl thiazolium chloride (N³PT), and 3-[(4-amino-2-methyl-5-pyrimidinyl)methyl]-5-(2-hydroxyethyl)-4-methyl 2(3H)-thiazolone chloride (thiamine thiazolone). There is a need to find new transketolase inhibitors, especially TPP-related compounds that are selective inhibitors for transketolase (i.e., which at a selected concentration inhibit transketolase more than other TPP-utilizing enzymes).

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0004] The present invention provides compounds that are transketolase inhibitors and therefore are useful in reducing cellular ribulose/ribose-5-phosphate levels, inhibiting nucleic acid synthesis and cell proliferation, increasing apoptosis in tumor cells and in reducing tumor growth. These compounds have the general formula I:

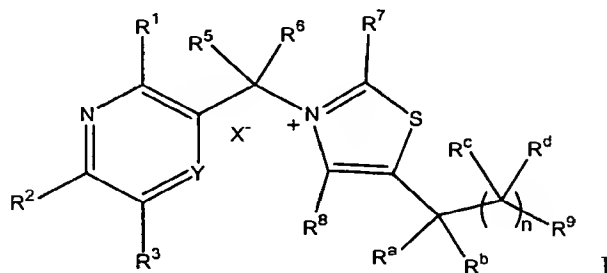


wherein R¹, R², R³, Y, R⁵-R⁹, R^a-R^d, n and X⁻ are as defined herein. The compounds of this invention may also be in the form of pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives such as salts, esters, or salts of esters.

[0005] The invention also provides pharmaceutical compositions comprising the present compounds, and methods for using the present compounds or pharmaceutical compositions. The invention provides methods for inhibiting transketolase activity, reducing cellular ribose-5-phosphate levels, inhibiting nucleic acid synthesis, inhibiting cell proliferation and tumor cell growth in vitro and in vivo, and stimulating apoptosis in tumor cells by administering a compound of the present invention or a pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of the present invention, either alone or in combination with thiamine-restricted diet and/or other therapeutic agents.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0006] The present invention features a compound of formula I:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, wherein:

- 5 Y is N or C(R⁴);
 R¹ is H, alkyl, -N(R)₂, -(CH₂)₁₋₆N(R^o)₂, -(CH₂)₁₋₆OR^o, -NRC(O)R,
-C(O)N(R)₂, -CN, -NRSO₂R, -COOR, -OR, -SR, -C(O)R, halo, -OC(O)R,
-NRC(O)OR, -OC(O)N(R)₂, -NRC(O)NR, -NRC(S)NR, -NRSO₂NR,
-C(O)NRN(R)₂, heteroaryl, or heterocyclic;
- 10 each R², R³ and R⁴ is independently H, alkyl, fluoroalkyl, -C(O)R, -COOR,
-C(O)N(R)₂, -CN, -NRC(O)R, -OR, -SR, -N(R)₂, -(CH₂)₁₋₆OR^o, -(CH₂)₁₋₆N(R^o)₂,
or halo;
 each R⁵ and R⁶ is independently H, alkyl, or fluoroalkyl;
 R⁷ is H, alkyl, fluoroalkyl, aralkyl, carbocyclalkyl, heterocyclalkyl,
15 carbocyclalkyl, heterocyclalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, heteroaralkyl, -C(O)R, -(CH₂)₁₋₆
OR^o, -(CH₂)₁₋₆N(R)₂, -C(O)CH₂C(O)R, -NRC(O)R, -N(R)₂, -C(O)N(R)₂, or
-C(H)(OR)R;
 R⁸ is H, alkyl, fluoroalkyl, carbocyclalkyl, carbocyclalkyl, heteroaryl,
heterocyclic, -CO₂R, or -CON(R)₂;
- 20 R⁹ is -OR¹⁰ or -NR¹¹R¹²;
 R¹⁰ is R^o, -C(O)R, -C(O)N(R)₂, -C(O)OR, -(CH₂)₁₋₆-C(O)R, -PO₃M_x,
-P(O)(alkyl)OM', -(PO₃)₂M_y, carbocyclalkyl, aryl, heterocyclalkyl, heteroaryl,
carbocyclalkyl, aralkyl, heterocyclalkyl, heteroaralkyl, or a tumor-targeting
moiety;
- 25 x is 1 or 2;
 y is 1, 2 or 3;
 each M is independently H, Li, Na, K, Mg, Ca, Mn, Co, Ni, Zn, or alkyl;
 M' is H, Li, Na, K, or alkyl;

R¹¹ is H or alkyl;

R¹² is H, alkyl, -C(O)R, -C(O)N(R)₂, -C(O)OR, -SO₂R, -SO₂N(R)₂, carbocyclyl, aryl, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl, carbocyclalkyl, aralkyl, heterocyclalkyl, heteroaralkyl or a tumor targeting moiety;

5 each R^a and R^b is independently H, OR^o, alkyl, or fluoroalkyl;

each R^c and R^d is independently H, alkyl, or fluoroalkyl;

n is 0-4;

X⁻ is a monovalent or divalent anion, or a counterion to the thiazolium nitrogen located anywhere in the molecule;

10 R^o is H or alkyl; and

R is R^o, carbocyclyl, aryl, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl, carbocyclalkyl, aralkyl, heterocyclalkyl, or heteroaralkyl;

provided that the following compounds are excluded:

Y is C(R⁴);

15 R⁵, R⁶, R^a, R^b, R^c and R^d are H;

R⁸ is methyl;

R⁹ is -OR¹⁰, and R¹⁰ is H, -PO₃M_x, -(PO₃)₂M_y or -P(O)(alkyl)OM';

X⁻ is Cl⁻ or Br⁻;

20 i) R¹ is H, R² is methyl, R³ is -OH, R⁴ is methyl, -CH₂OH or -CH₂NH₂, and R⁷ is H;

ii) R¹ is -NH₂, -NHMe or -N(Me)₂, R² is methyl, R³ is H, R⁴ is H or -CH₃, and R⁷ is H;

iii) R¹ is -NH₂ or OH, R² is methyl, R³ is H, R⁴ is H, and R⁷ is H;

iv) R¹ and R³ are H, R² is methyl, R⁴ is -NH₂, and R⁷ is H;

25 v) R¹ is -NH₂, R² is methyl, R³ and R⁴ are H, and R⁷ is H, -CH(OH)CO₂H or -C(OH)(Me)CO₂H;

vi) R¹, R³, R⁴ and R⁷ are H and R² is methyl; and

vii) R¹ is H, R² is -NH₂, R³ is -OH, R⁴ is -CH₂CH₂NH₂, and R⁷ is H.

[0007] As used herein, the following definitions shall apply unless otherwise indicated. The phrase "optionally substituted" is used interchangeably with the phrase "substituted or unsubstituted" or with the term "(un)substituted." Unless otherwise indicated, the term "alkyl", "carbocyclyl", "heterocyclic", "aryl", or

30

"heteroaryl", alone or in combination with any other term, may be an optionally substituted group. Such an optionally substituted group may have a substituent at each substitutable position of the group, and each substitution is independent of the other.

5 **[0008]** The term "alkyl", alone or in combination with any other term, refers to a C₁₋₁₂ straight or branched acyclic hydrocarbon radical that is either completely saturated or contains one or more units of unsaturation. Preferably, an alkyl radical contains from one to six carbon atoms. More preferably, an alkyl radical contains from one to four carbon atoms. A C₂₋₁₂ linear or branched alkyl radical having at
10 least one carbon-carbon double bond is also referred to as "alkenyl". The double bond(s) of the unsaturated hydrocarbon chain may be in either the cis or trans configuration and may occur in any stable point along the chain. A C₂₋₁₂ linear or branched alkyl having at least one carbon-carbon triple bond is also referred to as "alkynyl". The triple bond(s) in an alkynyl radical may occur in any stable point
15 along the chain. The terms "alkoxy", "hydroxyalkyl", "alkoxyalkyl", and "alkoxycarbonyl", alone or in combination with any other term, include both straight and branched hydrocarbon chains. The term "hydroxyalkyl" refers to alkyl substituted with hydroxy.

[0009] Examples of alkyl radicals include, but are not limited to, methyl, ethyl,
20 n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, isobutyl, sec-butyl, tert-butyl, pentyl, isoamyl, n-hexyl, ethenyl, propenyl, isopropenyl, butenyl, isobutenyl, pentenyl, hexenyl, hexadienyl, ethynyl, propynyl, butynyl, pentynyl and the like.

[0010] The term "alkoxy" refers to an alkyl ether radical (-O-alkyl). Examples of alkoxy radicals include, but are not limited to, methoxy, ethoxy, n-propoxy,
25 isopropoxy, n-butoxy, isobutoxy, sec-butoxy, tert-butoxy and the like.

[0011] The term "cycloalkyl", "carbocyclyl", "carbocyclic", "carbocycle", or "carbocyclo", alone or in combination with any other term, refers to a monocyclic or polycyclic non-aromatic hydrocarbon ring radical having three to twenty carbon atoms, preferably from three to twelve carbon atoms, and more preferably from
30 three to ten carbon atoms. A cycloalkyl, carbocyclyl, carbocyclic, carbocycle, or carbocyclo radical is either completely saturated or contains one or more units of unsaturation but is not aromatic. The unsaturation, if present, may occur in any

point in the ring that may result in any chemically stable configuration. The term "cycloalkyl", "carbocyclyl", "carbocyclic", "carbocycle", or "carbocyclo" also includes hydrocarbon rings that are fused to one or more aromatic rings, such as in tetrahydronaphthyl, where the radical or point of attachment is on the non-aromatic ring. The term "carbocyclalkyl" refers to an alkyl group substituted by a carbocycle.

[0012] Unless otherwise indicated, the term "cycloalkyl", "carbocyclyl", "carbocyclic", "carbocycle", or "carbocyclo" also includes each possible positional isomer of a non-aromatic hydrocarbon radical, such as in 1-decahydronaphthyl, 2-decahydronaphthyl, 1-tetrahydronaphthyl and 2-tetrahydronaphthyl. Examples of suitable cycloalkyl groups include, but are not limited to, cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, cyclohexenyl, decahydronaphthyl, tetrahydronaphthyl and the like.

[0013] The term "halogen" or "halo" refers to fluorine (F), chlorine (Cl), bromine (Br), or iodine (I).

[0014] The term "aryl", alone or in combination with any other term, refers to an aromatic monocyclic or polycyclic hydrocarbon ring radical containing five to twenty carbon atoms, preferably from six to fourteen carbon atoms, and more preferably from six to ten carbon atoms. Also included within the scope of the term "aryl", as it is used herein, is a group in which an aromatic hydrocarbon ring is fused to one or more non-aromatic carbocyclic or heteroatom-containing rings, such as in an indanyl, phenanthridinyl or tetrahydronaphthyl, where the radical or point of attachment is on the aromatic hydrocarbon ring.

[0015] Unless otherwise indicated, the term "aryl" also includes each possible positional isomer of an aromatic hydrocarbon radical, such as in 1-naphthyl, 2-naphthyl, 5-tetrahydronaphthyl, 6-tetrahydronaphthyl, 1-phenanthridinyl, 2-phenanthridinyl, 3-phenanthridinyl, 4-phenanthridinyl, 7-phenanthridinyl, 8-phenanthridinyl, 9-phenanthridinyl and 10-phenanthridinyl. Examples of aryl radicals include, but are not limited to, phenyl, naphthyl, indenyl, azulenyl, fluorenyl, anthracenyl, phenanthrenyl, tetrahydronaphthyl, indanyl, phenanthridinyl and the like. The term "aralkyl" refers to an alkyl group

substituted by an aryl. Examples of aralkyl groups include, but are not limited to, benzyl and phenethyl.

[0016] The term "heterocycle", "heterocyclic", or "heterocyclyl", alone or in combination with any other term, refers to a non-aromatic monocyclic or
5 polycyclic ring radical containing three to twenty carbon atoms, preferably three to seven carbon atoms if monocyclic and eight to eleven carbon atoms if bicyclic, and in which one or more ring carbons, preferably one to four, are each replaced by a heteroatom such as N, O, and S. A heterocycle, heterocyclic, or heterocyclyl ring may be fully saturated or may contain one or more units of unsaturation but is not
10 aromatic. The unsaturation, if present, may occur in any point in the ring that may result in any chemically stable configuration. The heterocyclic ring may be attached at a carbon or heteroatom that results in the creation of a stable structure. Preferred heterocycles include 5-7 membered monocyclic heterocycles and 8-10 membered bicyclic heterocycles.

[0017] Also included within the scope of the term "heterocycle", "heterocyclic", or "heterocyclyl" is a group in which a non-aromatic ring is fused to one or more aromatic rings, such as in an indoliny, chromanyl, phenanthridiny or tetrahydroquinoliny, where the radical or point of attachment is on the non-aromatic ring. Unless otherwise indicated, the term "heterocycle", "heterocyclic", or
20 "heterocyclyl" also includes each possible positional isomer of a heterocyclic radical, such as in 1-decahydroquinoline, 2-decahydroquinoline, 3-decahydroquinoline, 4-decahydroquinoline, 5-decahydroquinoline, 6-decahydroquinoline, 7-decahydroquinoline, 7-decahydroquinoline, 8-decahydroquinoline, 4a-decahydroquinoline, 8a-decahydroquinoline, 1-indoliny, 2-indoliny, 3-indoliny, 1-tetrahydroquinoline, 2-tetrahydroquinoline, 3-tetrahydroquinoline and 4-tetrahydroquinoline. The term "heterocyclylalkyl"
25 refers to an alkyl group substituted by a heterocyclyl.

[0018] Examples of heterocyclic groups include, but are not limited to, imidazoliny, 2,3-dihydro-1H-imidazolyl, imidazolidiny, indazolinolyl, perhydropyridazyl, pyrroliny, pyrrolidiny, 4H-pyrazolyl, piperidiny, pyranly, pyrazolinyl, piperazinyl, morpholinyl, thiamorpholinyl, thiazolidiny, thiamorpholinyl, oxopiperidiny, oxopyrrolidiny, azepiny, tetrahydrofurany,

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oxoazepinyl, tetrahydropyranyl, thiazolyl, dioxolyl, dioxinyl, oxathiyl,
benzodioxolyl, dithiolyl, dithiolanyl, tetrahydrothiophenyl, sulfolanyl, dioxanyl,
dioxolanyl, tetrahydrofurodihydrofuranyl, dihydropyranyl,
tetrahydropyranodihydrofuranyl, tetrahydrofurofuranyl, tetrahydropyranofuranyl,
5 diazolonyl, phthalimidinyl, benzoxanyl, benzopyrrolidinyl, benzopiperidinyl,
benzoxolanyl, benzothiolanyl and benzothianyl.

[0019] The term "heteroaryl", alone or in combination with any other term, refers
to an aromatic monocyclic or polycyclic ring radical containing five to twenty
carbon atoms, preferably five to ten carbon atoms, in which one or more ring
10 carbons, preferably one to four, are each replaced by a heteroatom such as N, O,
and S. Preferred heteroaryl groups include 5-6 membered monocyclic heteroaryls
and 8-10 membered bicyclic heteroaryls.

[0020] Also included within the scope of the term "heteroaryl" is a group in
which a heteroaromatic ring is fused to one or more aromatic or non-aromatic rings
15 where the radical or point of attachment is on the heteroaromatic ring. Examples
include, but are not limited to, pyrido[3,4-d]pyrimidinyl, 7,8-dihydro-pyrido[3,4-
d]pyrimidine and 5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-pyrido[3,4-d]pyrimidine. Unless otherwise
indicated, the term "heteroaryl" also includes each possible positional isomer of a
heteroaryl radical, such as in 2-pyrido[3,4-d]pyrimidinyl and 4-pyrido[3,4-
20 d]pyrimidinyl. The term "heteroaralkyl" refers to an alkyl group substituted by a
heteroaryl.

[0021] Examples of heteroaryl groups include, but are not limited to, imidazolyl,
quinolyl, isoquinolyl, indolyl, indazolyl, pyridazyl, pyridyl, pyrrolyl, pyrazolyl,
pyrazinyl, quinoxalyl, pyrimidinyl, pyridazinyl, furyl, thienyl, triazolyl, thiazolyl,
25 carbazolyl, carbolinyl, tetrazolyl, benzofuranyl, oxazolyl, benzoxazolyl,
isoxozolyl, isothiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, furazanyl, oxadiazolyl, benzimidazolyl,
benzothienyl, quinolinyl, benzotriazolyl, benzothiazolyl, isoquinolinyl, isoindolyl,
acridinyl and benzoisoxazolyl.

[0022] The term "heteroatom" means nitrogen, oxygen, or sulfur and includes
30 any oxidized form of nitrogen such as N(O) [N^+-O^-], of sulfur such as S(O) and
S(O)₂, and the quaternized form of any basic nitrogen. Suitable substituents on a
substitutable ring nitrogen include alkyl, -N(R')₂, -C(O)R', -CO₂R', -C(O)C(O)R',

-C(O)CH₂C(O)R', -SO₂R', -SO₂N(R')₂, -C(=S)N(R')₂, -C(=NH)-N(R')₂, and -NR'SO₂R'; wherein R' is hydrogen, alkyl, phenyl (Ph), -OPh, -CH₂Ph, wherein said alkyl or phenyl is optionally substituted by one or more groups independently chosen from alkyl, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, aminocarbonyl, halo, alkylaminocarbonyl, dialkylaminocarbonyl, alkylaminocarbonyloxy, dialkylaminocarbonyloxy, alkoxy, nitro, cyano, carboxy, alkoxycarbonyl, alkylcarbonyl, hydroxy, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkoxy, and haloalkyl.

[0023] Unless otherwise indicated, an aryl (including the aryl moiety in aralkyl, aralkoxy, aryloxyalkyl and the like) or heteroaryl (including the heteroaryl moiety in heteroaralkyl and heteroarylalkoxy and the like) group may contain one or more substituents. Examples of such suitable substituents on the unsaturated carbon atom of an aryl or heteroaryl group include halo, -CF₃, -OCF₃, -OR[†], -SR[†], -SCF₃, -R[†], methylenedioxy, ethylenedioxy, -NO₂, -CN, -N(R[†])₂, -NR[†]C(O)R[†], -NR[†]C(O)N(R[†])₂, -NR[†]C(S)N(R[†])₂, -NR[†]CO₂R[†], -NR[†]NR[†]C(O)R[†], -NR[†]NR[†]C(O)N(R[†])₂, -NR[†]NR[†]CO₂R[†], -C(O)C(O)R[†], -C(O)CH₂C(O)R[†], -CO₂R[†], -O-C(O)R[†], -C(O)R[†], -C(O)N(R[†])₂, -OC(O)N(R[†])₂, -S(O)_tR[†], -S(O)_t-OR[†], -SO₂N(R[†])C(O)R[†], -NR[†]SO₂N(R[†])₂, -NR[†]SO₂R[†], -C(=S)N(R[†])₂, -C(=NH)-N(R[†])₂, -C(=N-OR[†])-N(R[†])₂, -O-(CH₂)₀₋₆-SO₂N(R[†])₂, -(CH₂)₁₋₆NHC(O)R[†], -SO₂N(R[†])₂, -(CH₂)₁₋₆-OR[†], -(CH₂)₁₋₆-SR[†], -(CH₂)₁₋₆-CN, -(CH₂)₁₋₆-N(R[†])₂, -(CH₂)₁₋₆CO₂R[†], -C(O)N(R[†])N(R[†])₂, -C(O)N(R[†])OH, -C(O)N(R[†])SO₂R[†], -S(O)_tN(R[†])OR, and -(CH₂)₁₋₆-C(O)R[†], wherein the two R[†]s on the same nitrogen optionally taken together forming a 5-8 membered saturated, partially saturated or aromatic ring having additional 0-4 ring heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen and sulfur.

[0024] Each R[†] is independently selected from R[†], -C(O)R[†], or -S(O)_tR[†], wherein each member of R[†] except H is optionally substituted by one or more groups chosen from R[†], -OR[†], N(R[†])₂, =O, =S, halo, -CF₃, -NO₂, -CN, -C(O)R[†], -CO₂R[†], -C(O)-aryl, -C(O)-heteroaryl, -O-aryl, aralkyl, -S(O)_t-aryl, -NR[†]SO₂R[†], -NR[†]C(O)R[†], -NR[†]C(O)N(R[†])₂, -N(R[†])C(S)N(R[†])₂, -NR[†]CO₂R[†], -NR[†]NR[†]C(O)R[†], -NR[†]NR[†]C(O)N(R[†])₂, -NR[†]NR[†]CO₂R[†], -C(O)C(O)R[†], -C(O)CH₂C(O)R[†], -C(O)N(R[†])N(R[†])₂, -C(O)N(R[†])₂, -C(O)NR[†]SO₂R[†], -OC(O)N(R[†])₂, -S(O)_tR[†], -NR[†]SO₂N(R[†])₂, and -SO₂N(R[†])₂ wherein the two R[†]s on the same nitrogen optionally taken together form a 5-8 membered saturated, partially saturated or

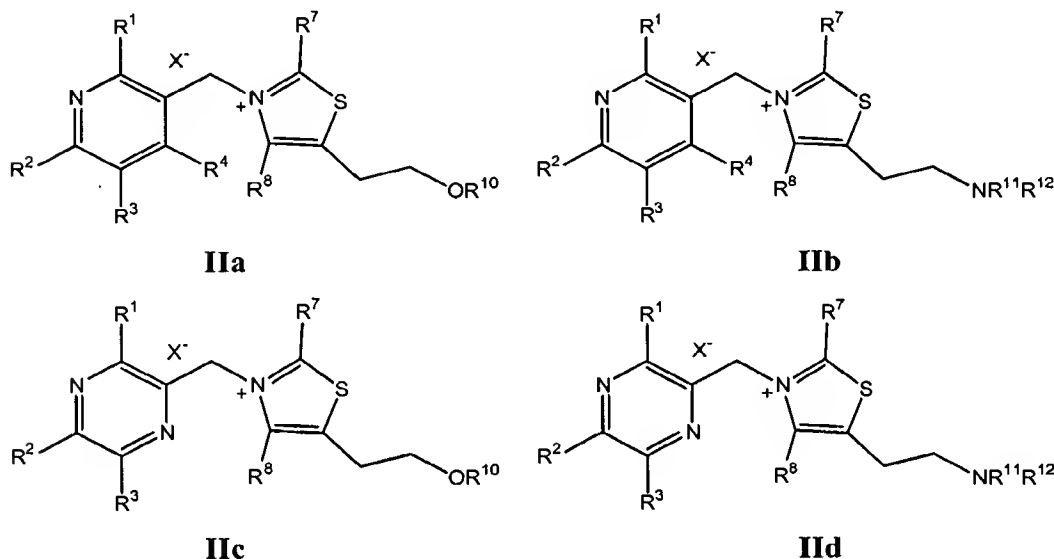
aromatic ring having additional 0-4 ring heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen, and sulfur. Each R^{\dagger} is independently H, unsubstituted alkyl, unsubstituted carbocyclyl, unsubstituted aryl, unsubstituted heteroaryl, unsubstituted heterocyclyl, unsubstituted carbocyclalkyl, unsubstituted aralkyl, unsubstituted heteroaralkyl, or unsubstituted heterocyclalkyl; and each t is independently 1 or 2.

- [0025] Unless otherwise indicated, an alkyl (including the alkyl moiety in aralkyl, aralkoxy, aryloxyalkyl, carbocyclalkyl and the like), carbocyclyl (including the carbocyclyl moiety in carbocyclalkyl) or heterocyclic group may contain one or more substituents. Examples of such suitable substituents on the saturated carbon of an alkyl or of a carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring include those listed above for the unsaturated carbon of an aryl or heteroaryl group and the following: $=O$, $=S$, $=NNHR^{\dagger}$, $=NN(R^{\dagger})_2$, $=N(CN)$, $=NNHC(O)R^{\dagger}$, $=NNHCO_2(alkyl)$, $=NNHSO_2(alkyl)$, or $=NR^{\dagger}$.
- [0026] A combination of substituents or variables is permissible only if such a combination results in a stable or chemically feasible compound. A stable compound or chemically feasible compound is one in which the chemical structure is not substantially altered when kept at a temperature of 40 °C or less, in the absence of moisture or other chemically reactive conditions, for at least a week.
- [0027] Unless otherwise stated, structures depicted herein are also meant to include all endo or exo, cis or trans isomers as well as all stereochemical forms of the structure, i.e., the R and S configurations for each asymmetric center. Therefore, racemates and racemic mixtures, single enantiomers, diastereomeric mixtures and individual diastereoisomers of the present compounds are expressly included within the scope of the invention. Although the specific compounds exemplified herein may be depicted in a particular stereochemical configuration, compounds having either the opposite stereochemistry at any given chiral center or mixtures thereof are also envisioned.
- [0028] Unless otherwise stated, structures depicted herein are also meant to include compounds which differ only in the presence of one or more isotopically enriched atoms. For example, compounds having the present structures except for

the replacement of a hydrogen by a deuterium or tritium, or the replacement of a carbon by a ^{13}C - or ^{14}C -enriched carbon are also within the scope of this invention.

[0029] It will be apparent to one skilled in the art that certain compounds of this invention may exist in alternative tautomeric forms. All such tautomeric forms of the present compounds are within the scope of the invention. Unless otherwise indicated, the representation of either tautomer is meant to include the other.

[0030] Certain embodiments of the present invention are compounds represented by formulae **IIa**, **IIb**, **IIc** and **IId**:



wherein $\text{R}^1\text{-R}^4$, $\text{R}^7\text{-R}^8$, $\text{R}^{10}\text{-R}^{12}$ and X^- are as defined in formula I.

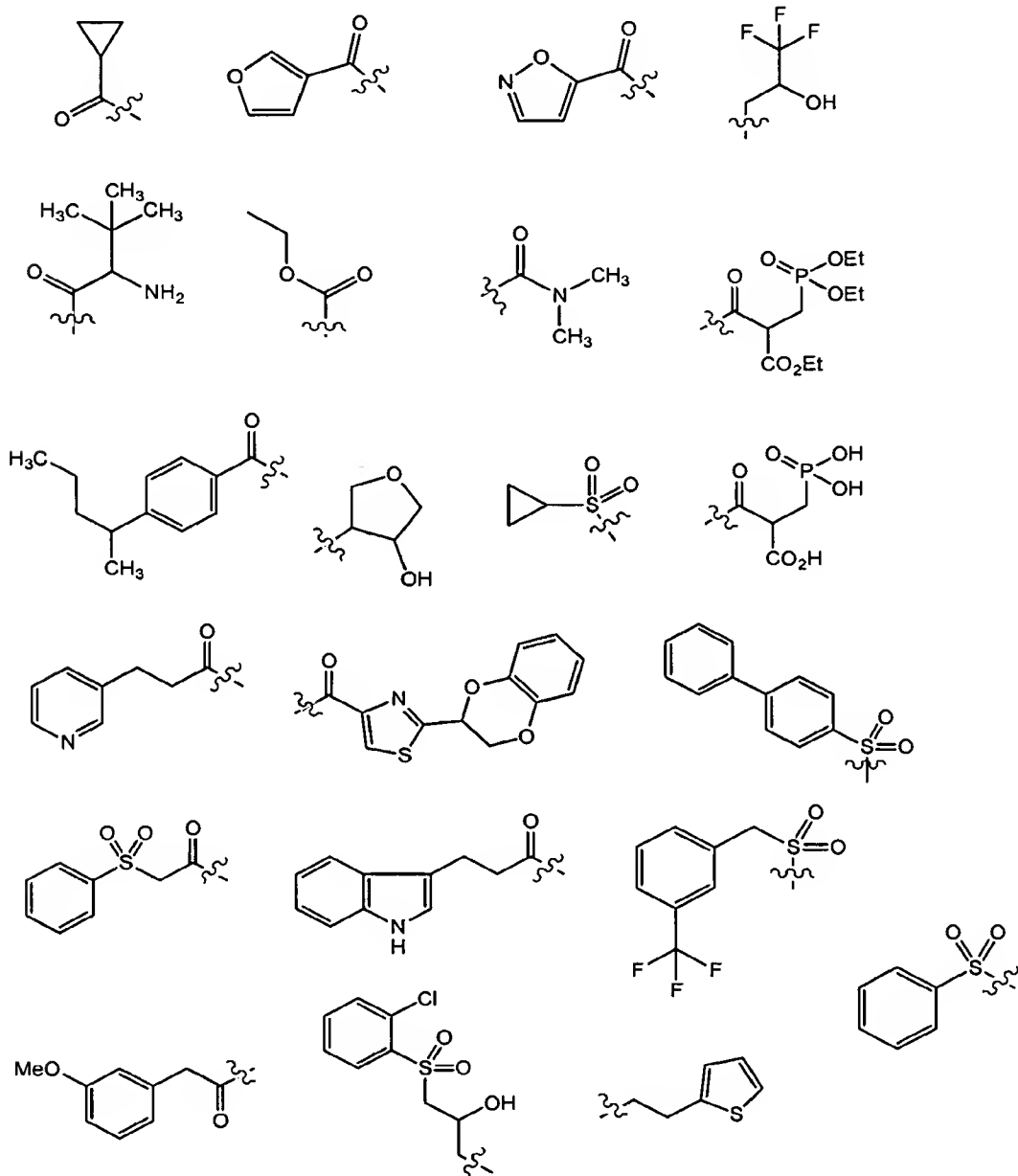
[0031] According to some embodiments of the present invention, n is 1.

[0032] In other embodiments, X^- is a monovalent anion. Suitable monovalent anions of this invention include Cl^- , Br^- , F^- , I^- , NO_3^- , acetate, trifluoroacetate, benzoate, maleate, methanesulfonate and the like. In some embodiments, the counterion to the thiazolium ion is located elsewhere in the molecule, where a substituent at any of the $\text{R}^1\text{-R}^{10}$ positions forms an inner salt with the thiazolium ion. For example, when any of $\text{R}^1\text{-R}^8$ is a carboxylic acid moiety, the carboxylate group forms an inner salt with the thiazolium ion; or when R^{10} is $-\text{PO}_3\text{M}_x$, $-\text{P}(\text{O})(\text{alkyl})\text{OM}'$, or $-(\text{PO}_3)_2\text{M}_y$, the phosphate, pyrophosphate or phosphonate forms an inner salt with the thiazolium ion. In other embodiments, X^- is a divalent anion. When X^- is a divalent anion, a compound comprised of two thiazoliums of formula I and X^- would form a neutral species; or alternatively, the second positive

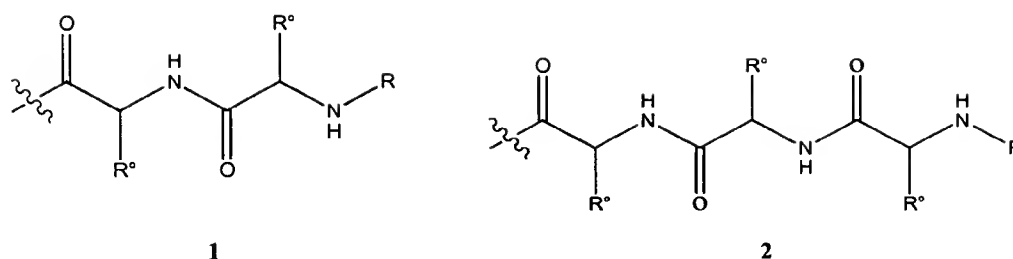
counterion may be located elsewhere in the molecule to produce a zero net charge in the molecule. Suitable divalent anions include sulfate, succinate, tartrate and the like.

- [0033] In some embodiments, R^1 is H, $-N(R)_2$, alkyl, $-NR^\circ C(O)NR$,
5 $-NR^\circ C(O)OR$, $-C(O)N(R)_2$, $-(CH_2)_{1-6}N(R^\circ)_2$, $-NR^\circ C(O)R$, $-CN$, $-COOR$, $-OR$,
 $-SR$, or halo; and each R° and R is independently H or alkyl optionally substituted
with halo, hydroxy or amino. Examples of R^1 include H, amino, $-CH_2NH_2$,
 $-NHC(O)NHEt$, $-NHC(O)OEt$, $-NHCH_2OH$, $-NHCH_2CH_2OH$, $-NH-CH_2CH_2Cl$,
 $-N(CH_2OH)_2$, Cl, Br, $-SCH_3$, CN, $-C(O)NH_2$, $-C(O)OH$, methyl, ethyl and the like.
- 10 [0034] In other embodiments, R^2 is H, alkyl, fluoroalkyl, $-OR^\circ$, $-N(R^\circ)_2$, or halo.
 R° is preferably H or unsubstituted alkyl. Examples of R^2 include H, methyl,
ethyl, amino, CF_3 , Cl, Br, and the like.
- [0035] In some embodiments, R^3 and R^4 are independently H, alkyl, $-OR$,
 $-N(R)_2$, $-(CH_2)_{1-6}OR^\circ$, or $-(CH_2)_{1-6}N(R^\circ)_2$. Examples of R^3 include H, methyl,
15 ethyl, amino, hydroxy and the like. Examples of R^4 include H, methyl, ethyl,
 $-CH_2OH$, $-CH_2NH_2$ and the like.
- [0036] In some embodiments, R^5 , R^6 and R^8 are independently H, C_{1-6} alkyl or
fluoro(C_{1-6} alkyl). Examples of R^5 , R^6 and R^8 include H, methyl, ethyl, $-CH_2F$,
 $-CHF_2$, $-CF_3$ and the like.
- 20 [0037] In some embodiments, R^7 is H, alkyl, fluoroalkyl, $-(CH_2)_{1-6}OR$, $-(CH_2)_{1-6}N(R)_2$, $-NR^\circ C(O)R$, $-C(O)R$, $-C(H)(OR)R$, aralkyl, heterocyclic,
heterocyclalkyl, heteroaryl, or heteroaralkyl. Examples of R^7 include H, methyl,
ethyl, CF_3 , $-CH(OH)CH_3$, $-CH_2OH$, $-CH_2CH_2OH$ and the like.
- [0038] In some embodiments, R^{10} is H, alkyl, $-C(O)R$, $-PO_3M_x$, $-(PO_3)_2M_y$,
25 $-P(O)(alkyl)OM'$, $-C(O)N(R)_2$, or $-C(O)OR$. In some embodiments, R is alkyl or
aryl. Examples of R^{10} include H, methyl, ethyl, $-C(O)alkyl$, $-C(O)NMe_2$, $-C(O)-p$ -
OMe-phenyl, $-C(O)O$ -phenyl, $-PO_3H_2$, $-P(O)(OMe)_2$, $-P(O)(OMe)OH$,
 $-P(O)(Me)OH$, $-P(O)(OH)OP(O)(OH)(OH)$, and the like.
- [0039] R^{11} is H or C_{1-6} alkyl. Examples of R^{11} include H, methyl, ethyl and the
30 like.

[0040] In some embodiments, R¹² is H, alkyl, -C(O)R, -C(O)N(R)₂, -C(O)OR, -SO₂R, 5-membered heterocyclyl, or 5-membered heteroaralkyl. Examples of R¹² include H, methyl, ethyl, and the following:

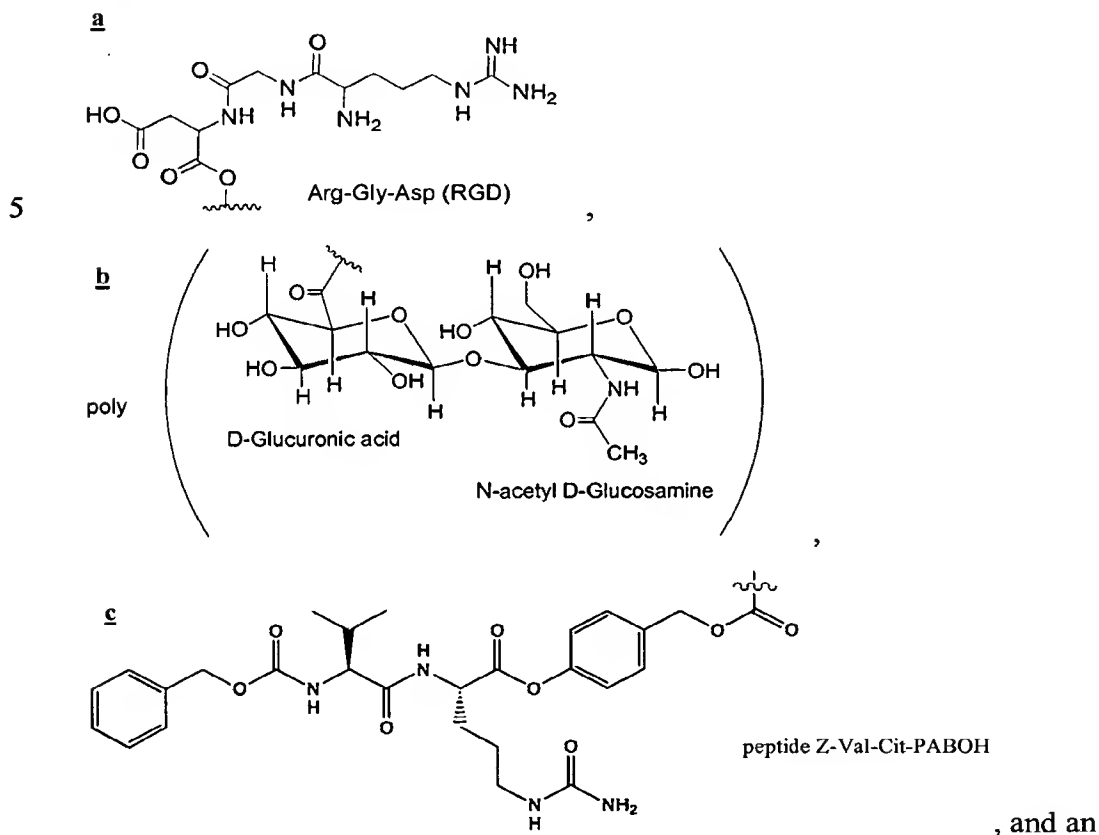


- 5 [0041] In other embodiments, R¹⁰ or R¹² is a moiety that specifically targets tumor cells. Such R¹⁰ or R¹² includes polysaccharides (e.g., HA), oligopeptide analogs (-[C(O)CH(R)N(R)]₂₋₃-R; for example, compounds of formula 1 and 2)



and antibodies.

[0042] Examples of such tumor-targeting moieties are known in the art and include the following:



antibody.

[0043] Compounds with R¹⁰ or R¹² tumor-targeting moieties can be prepared using methods known in the art. See, Luo et al., *Bioconjugate Chem.*, **1999**, *10*, 755-763; Janssen et al., *Cancer Research*, **2002**, *62*, 6146-6151; Curnis et al., *Cancer Research*, **2004**, *64*, 565-571; and Toki et al., *J. Org. Chem.* **2002**, *67*, 1866-1872. The resulting conjugate aids the delivery of the compounds of the present invention to a mammal. Preferably, the conjugate aids in delivering active compounds to one or more selective cell types, tissues or organs of the mammal,

for example, by means of a cellular targeting molecule, e.g., an immunoconjugate or other cell surface specific conjugate. Useful tissues and organs include lymphatic tissue, blood, brain, kidney, liver, lung, spleen. Useful tissues are not, however, limited to these organs. Compounds of the present invention are
5 envisioned to be effective for reducing tumor growth in any tumor type in the body.

[0044] For example, the Arg-Gly-Asp moiety (a) interacts with the cell adhesion receptors including $\alpha_5\beta_3$ which is selectively expressed in tumor cells. Therefore, RGD esters would deliver the active drug to the site of action.

10 [0045] Polysaccharide bioconjugate b (e.g., hyaluronic acid (HA) and hyaluronic acid derivatives) targets tumor cells expressing the HA receptor.

[0046] The peptide Z-Val-Cit-PABOH moiety (c) is cleaved by Cathepsin B in tumor cells to give the active drug. Proteolytic enzymes such as cathepsin B are often overexpressed by metastatic tumor cells. Cathepsin B, among others, has
15 been recognized to be critical for the metastatic process because of its capability to degrade the basement membrane and the extracellular matrix around tumor tissue. Cathepsin B has been shown to be clinically relevant in cancer progression and its cytosolic levels can be up to 11 times higher in tumor tissue compared to normal tissue. This specific target delivery approach using the peptide Z-Val-Cit-PABOH
20 favors intratumoral drug efficiency while minimizing non-targeted tissues.

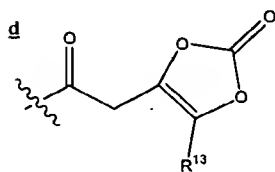
[0047] In other embodiments the tumor-targeting moiety is an antibody. The antibody is raised against certain antigens expressed selectively or overexpressed on tumor cells. Such antibodies target the compounds of this invention to the tumor cells. Antibodies conjugated to a compound according to this invention are
25 immunoglobulin molecules or portions thereof that are immunologically reactive with the antigens expressed on tumor cells.

[0048] Antibodies exist for example, as intact immunoglobulins (consisting of two heavy chains and two light chains) or as a number of well-characterized fragments thereof. Such fragments include, but are not limited to, those produced
30 by digestion with various proteases, those produced by chemical cleavage and/or chemical dissociation, and those produced recombinantly, so long as the fragment remains capable of specific binding to an antigen. Among these fragments are Fab,

Fab', F(ab')₂, and single chain Fv (scFv) fragments. Thus, as used herein, the term antibody includes antibody fragments produced by the modification of whole antibodies or those synthesized de novo.

[0049] In other embodiments the antibody is conjugated to a liposome
5 comprising the compounds of this invention.

[0050] The invention also provides compounds of formula I, wherein R¹⁰ or R¹² is a prodrug moiety. For example, R¹⁰ or R¹² is



, wherein R¹³ is H, alkyl, optionally substituted aryl (see Sun et al., *J. Med. Chem.*, **2001**, *44*, 2671-2674; Sun et al., *Tetrahedron Letters*, **2002**,
10 *43*, 1161-1164; and United States Patent 5,466,811).

[0051] The oxodioxolenylmethyl carbonate (**d**) conjugated prodrugs are characterized as being more readily bioavailable, less irritating to topical and gastric mucosal membranes and more permeable through topical membranes than are the parent drugs from which they are derived. Therefore, the
15 oxodioxolenylmethyl carbonate (**d**) conjugated prodrugs provide increased biomembrane transport such that the drug is more bioavailable, for example, from the GI tract, the rectum, the skin and the eye.

[0052] Some embodiments of formula I have one or more, and more preferably all, of the features selected from the group consisting of:

- 20 i) R¹ is -(CH₂)₁₋₆N(R^o)₂, -(CH₂)₁₋₆OR^o, -NRC(O)R, -C(O)N(R)₂, -CN, -N(R)SO₂R, -COOR, -SR, -C(O)R, halo, -OC(O)R, -NRC(O)OR, -OC(O)N(R)₂, -N(R)C(O)N(R), -NRC(S)NR, -NRSO₂NR, -C(O)NRN(R)₂, heteroaryl or heterocyclyl;
- ii) R² is H, fluoroalkyl, -C(O)R, -COOR, -C(O)N(R)₂, -CN, -NRC(O)R, -OR, -SR, -N(R)₂, -(CH₂)₁₋₆OR^o, -(CH₂)₁₋₆N(R^o)₂, or halo;
- 25 iii) R³ is alkyl, fluoroalkyl, -C(O)R, -COOR, -C(O)N(R)₂, -CN, -NRC(O)R, -SR, -N(R)₂, -(CH₂)₁₋₆OR^o, -(CH₂)₁₋₆N(R^o)₂, or halo;
- iv) R⁴ is fluoroalkyl, -C(O)R, -COOR, -C(O)N(R)₂, -CN, -NRC(O)R, -OR, -SR, -(CH₂)₁₋₆N(R^o)₂, or halo;

v) R^{10} is H, $-PO_3M_x$, $-(PO_3)_2M_y$ or $-P(O)(alkyl)OM'$; or R^{12} is H or C_{1-6} alkyl; and

vi) n is 1.

[0053] In some embodiments, R^{10} is $-C(O)R$, $-C(O)N(R)_2$, $-C(O)OR$, $-(CH_2)_{1-6}$ -
5 $C(O)R$, alkyl, carbocyclyl, aryl, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl, carbocyclalkyl, aralkyl, heterocyclalkyl, heteroaralkyl, or a tumor-targeting moiety; and R^{12} is $-C(O)R$, $-C(O)N(R)_2$, $-C(O)OR$, $-SO_2R$, $-SO_2N(R)_2$, carbocyclyl, aryl, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl, carbocyclalkyl, aralkyl, heterocyclalkyl, heteroaralkyl or a tumor-targeting moiety.

10 [0054] Some embodiments of the present invention have one or more, and more preferably all, of the features selected from the group consisting of:

i) R^1 is H, $-N(R)_2$, alkyl, $-NR^{\circ}C(O)NR$, $-NR^{\circ}C(O)OR$, $-C(O)N(R)_2$, $-(CH_2)_{1-6}N(R^{\circ})_2$, $-NR^{\circ}C(O)R$, $-CN$, $-COOR$, $-OR$, $-SR$, or halo;

ii) R^2 is H, alkyl, fluoroalkyl, $-OR^{\circ}$, $-N(R^{\circ})_2$, or halo;

15 iii) R^3 and R^4 are independently H, alkyl, $-OR$, $-N(R)_2$, $-(CH_2)_{1-6}OR^{\circ}$, or $-(CH_2)_{1-6}N(R^{\circ})_2$;

iv) R^7 is H, alkyl, fluoroalkyl, $-(CH_2)_{1-6}OR$, $-(CH_2)_{1-6}N(R)_2$, $-NR^{\circ}C(O)R$, $-C(O)R$, $-C(H)(OR)R$, aralkyl, heterocyclic, heterocyclalkyl, heteroaryl, or heteroaralkyl;

20 v) R^{10} is H, alkyl, $-C(O)R$, $-PO_3M_x$, $-P(O)(alkyl)OM'$, $-(PO_3)_2M_y$, $-C(O)N(R)_2$, $-C(O)OR$, or a tumor-targeting moiety; or R^{12} is H, alkyl, $-C(O)R$, $-C(O)N(R)_2$, $-C(O)OR$, $-SO_2R$, 5-membered heterocyclyl, 5-membered heteroaralkyl, or a tumor-targeting moiety; and

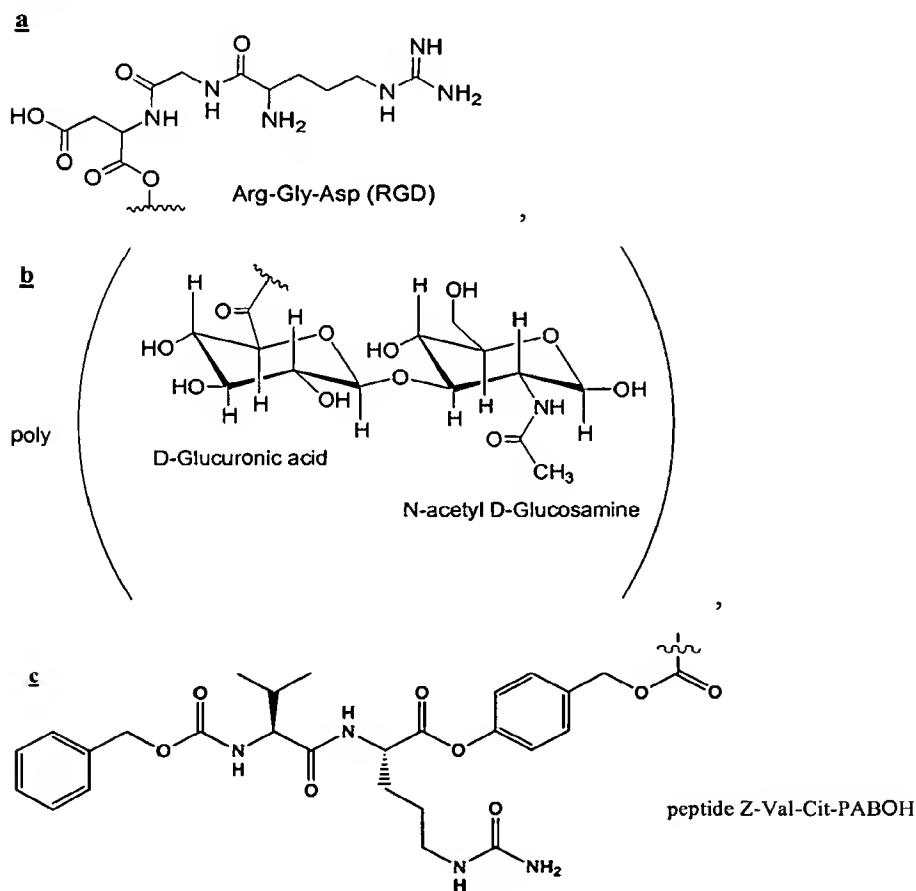
vi) n is 1.

25 [0055] In some embodiments, R is R° , carbocyclyl, aryl, heteroaryl, heterocyclyl, aralkyl, heterocyclalkyl or heteroaralkyl. In other embodiments, R° is H or C_{1-6} alkyl optionally substituted with halo, hydroxy or amino.

[0056] Other embodiments of the present invention have one or more, and more preferably all, of the features selected from the group consisting of:

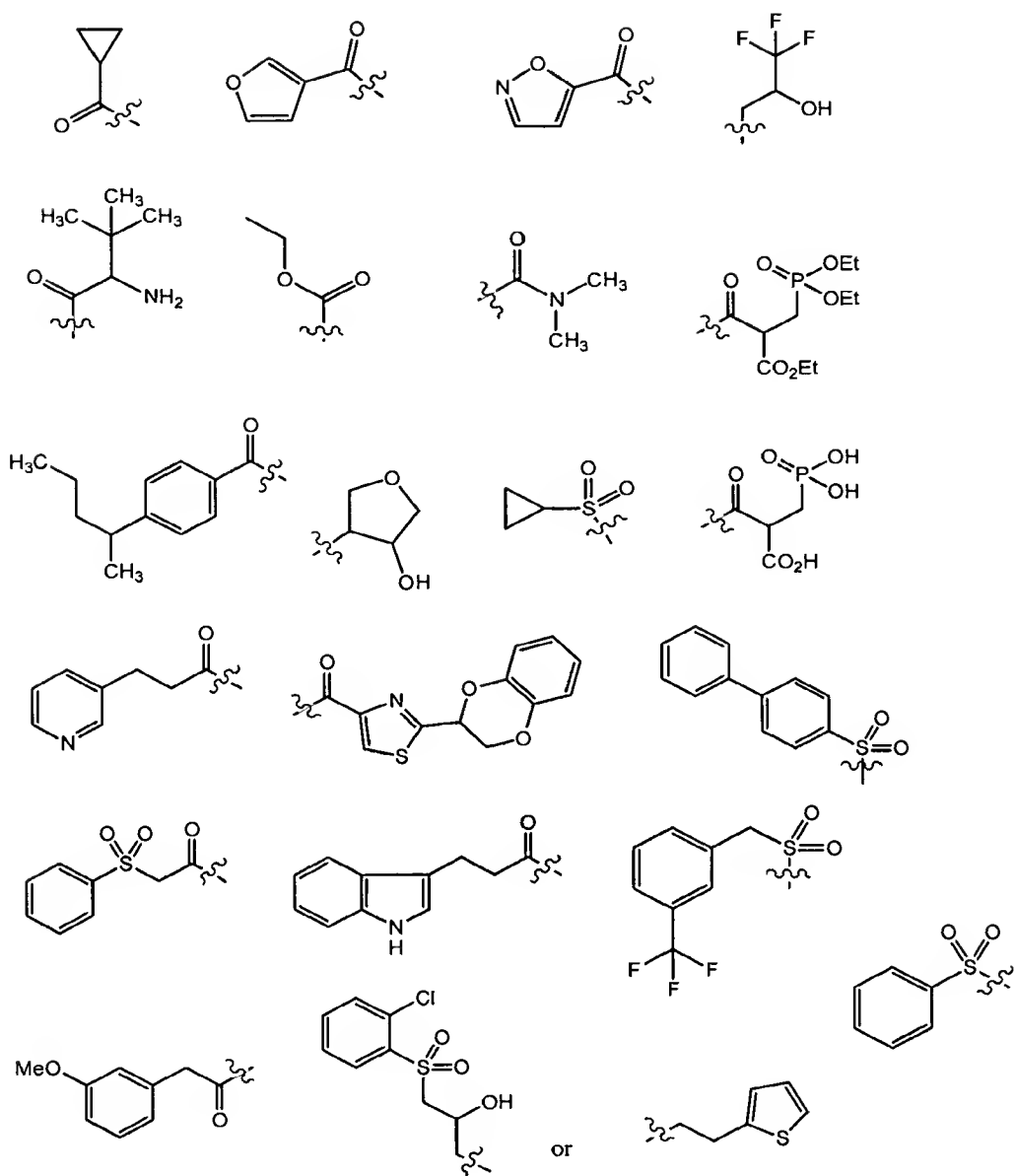
30 i) R^1 is H, amino, $-CH_2NH_2$, $-NHC(O)NHEt$, $-NHC(O)OEt$, $-NHCH_2OH$, $-NHCH_2CH_2OH$, $-NH-CH_2CH_2Cl$, $-N(CH_2OH)_2$, Cl, Br, $-SCH_3$, CN, $-C(O)NH_2$, $-C(O)OH$, methyl, or ethyl;

- ii) R^2 is H, methyl, ethyl, amino, CF_3 , Cl, or Br;
- iii) R^3 is H, methyl, ethyl, amino, or hydroxy;
- iv) R^4 is H, methyl, ethyl, $-CH_2OH$, or $-CH_2NH_2$;
- v) each R^5 , R^6 and R^8 is independently H, methyl, ethyl, $-CH_2F$,
5 $-CHF_2$, or $-CF_3$;
- vi) R^7 is H, methyl, ethyl, CF_3 , $-CH(OH)CH_3$, $-CH_2OH$, or
 $-CH_2CH_2OH$;
- vii) R^{10} is H, methyl, ethyl, $-C(O)Me$, $-C(O)Et$, $-C(O)NMe_2$, $-C(O)-p-$
OMe-phenyl, $-C(O)O$ -phenyl, $-PO_3H_2$, $-P(O)(OMe)_2$, $-P(O)(OMe)OH$,
10 $-P(O)(Me)OH$, $-P(O)(OH)OP(O)(OH)(OH)$, or R^{14} ; and R^{14} is selected from the
group consisting of:



- 15 antibody; or R^{12} is H, methyl, ethyl, R^{14} ,

and an



; and

viii) n is 1.

[0057] Some embodiments of the present invention have one or more, and more preferably all, of the features selected from the group consisting of:

- 5 i) R^1 is H, $-N(R^o)_2$, $-SR^o$, or halo;
- ii) R^2 is H, alkyl, fluoroalkyl, $-N(R^o)_2$, or halo;
- iii) R^3 and R^4 are independently H or alkyl;
- iv) R^7 is H or alkyl;
- v) R^8 is H or C_{1-6} unsubstituted alkyl;

vi) R^9 is $-OR^{10}$ and R^{10} is H, C_{1-6} unsubstituted alkyl, $-C(O)R$, $-PO_3M_x$, $-P(O)(alkyl)OM'$, $-(PO_3)_2M_y$, $-C(O)OR$, or a tumor-targeting moiety; and

vii) n is 1.

[0058] Other embodiments of the present invention have one or more, and more preferably all, of the features selected from the group consisting of:

i) R^1 is H, $-NH_2$, $-SCH_3$, or Cl;

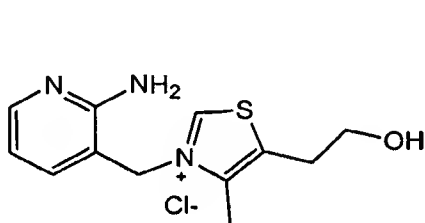
ii) R^2 is H, methyl, $-CF_3$, $-NH_2$, or Cl;

iii) R^3 , R^4 , R^7 and R^8 are independently H or methyl;

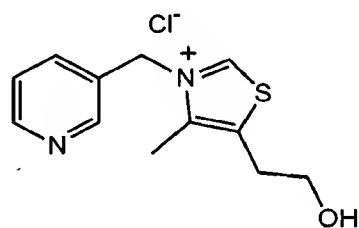
iv) R^9 is $-OR^{10}$ and R^{10} is H, H, $-PO_3H_2$, $-P(O)(OMe)_2$, $-P(O)(OMe)OH$, $-P(O)(Me)OH$, $-P(O)(OH)OP(O)(OH)(OH)$, or R^{14} ; and

v) n is 1.

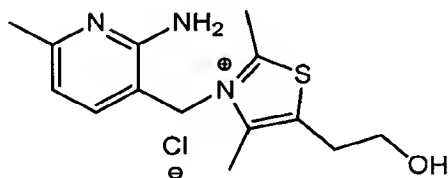
[0059] Representative compounds of formula I are depicted below.



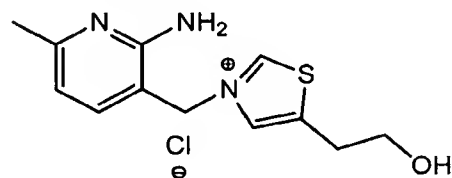
IIa-1



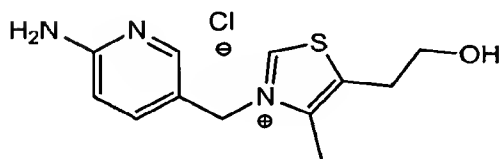
IIa-2



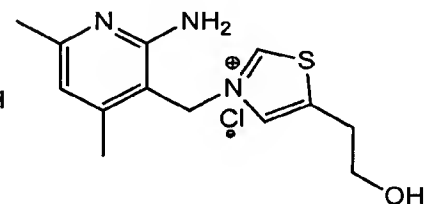
IIa-3



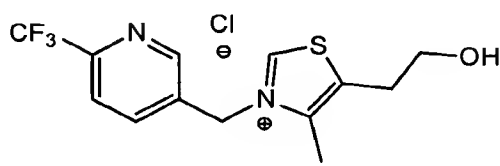
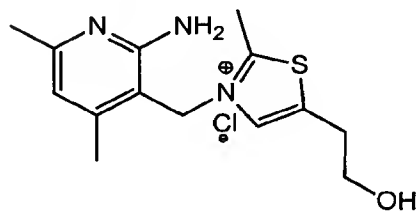
IIa-4



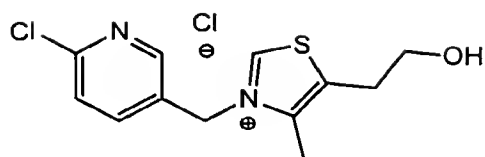
IIa-5



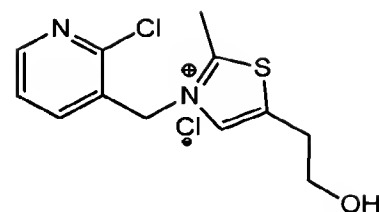
IIa-6



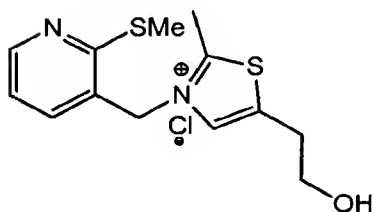
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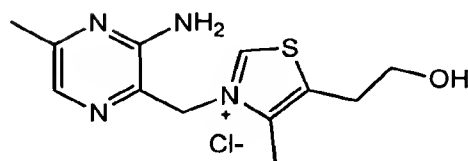
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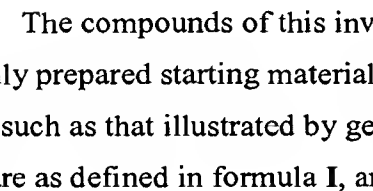
IIa-9



IIa-10



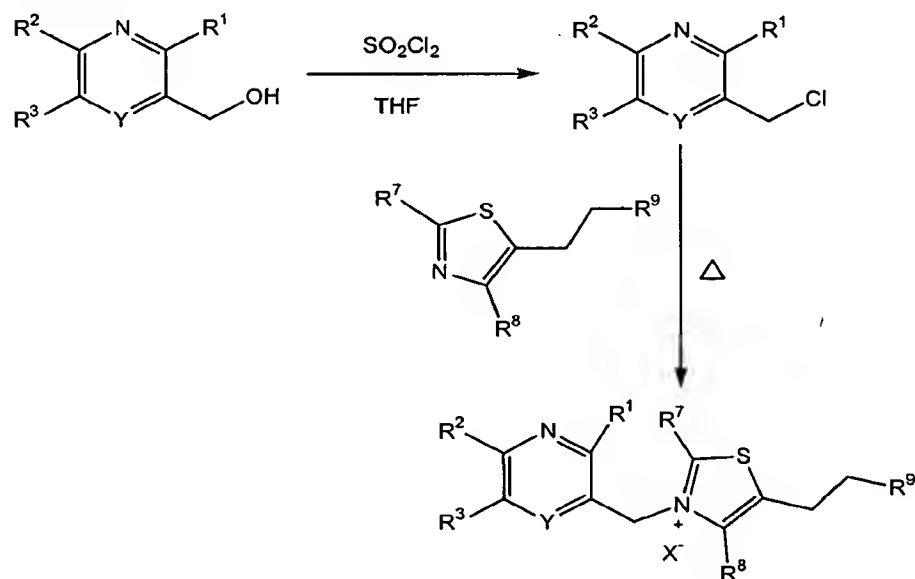
IIa-11



IIc-1

[0060] The compounds of this invention generally may be obtained from known or readily prepared starting materials, following methods known to those skilled in the art, such as that illustrated by general Scheme I below, wherein R¹-R³, Y, and R⁷-R⁹ are as defined in formula I, and by the examples described herein.

Scheme I



Compounds with R⁵, R⁶, n and R^a-R^d other than those illustrated in Scheme I may be synthesized by modifying the synthetic routes disclosed herein using methods known in the art.

[0061] Compounds of the present invention are useful as transketolase inhibitors. One aspect of the instant invention relates to methods of inhibiting transketolase activity in a biological sample comprising contacting the biological sample with compounds of formula I or pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof.

5 Another aspect of the instant invention relates to methods of inhibiting transketolase activity in a patient comprising administering to the patient in need thereof with a therapeutically effective amount of compounds of formula I or pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof. The inhibitory activity of the present compounds towards transketolase may be assayed by methods known in
10 the art (see, for example, Booth and Nixon, *Eur. J. Biochem.* **1993**, 218:261-265). In a preferred embodiment, the present compounds selectively inhibit transketolase activity compared to their ability to inhibit another TPP-utilizing enzyme (e.g., alpha-ketoglutarate dehydrogenase or pyruvate dehydrogenase).

[0062] The amount of the present compounds needed to achieve a therapeutic
15 effect will vary depending on the individual tumor and subject treated, and may be determined empirically by one of skill in the art, e.g., by measuring transketolase activity in a tumor biopsy or in the blood of the treated subjects. In general, the level will depend on competing levels of thiamine and thiamine-derived compounds such as thiamine pyrophosphate (TPP), which is the cofactor for
20 transketolase. The recommended daily allotment (RDA) of thiamine in humans is 1.5 mg. For a human weighing 70kg, that corresponds to a recommended daily intake of 21 micrograms/kg body weight. The average 20g mouse which ingests 1g of food per day (mouse chow, Taklad Global 18%, contains 10 mg thiamine/kg), has a daily intake of about 500 micrograms/kg body weight. The
25 skilled artisan may determine empirically a therapeutically effective range of the present compounds by taking into consideration estimated or measured thiamine levels in the subject to be treated.

[0063] According to one embodiment of the invention, compounds of formulae I and IIa-d or derivatives thereof may be formulated into compositions. In one
30 embodiment, the composition is a pharmaceutical composition, which comprises a compound of formulae I and IIa-d or derivatives thereof and pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, adjuvant or vehicle. In another embodiment, the composition

comprises an amount of a transketolase inhibitor of the present invention effective to inhibit transketolase activity in a biological sample or in a patient. In another embodiment, compounds of this invention and pharmaceutical compositions thereof may be formulated for administration to a patient, for example, for oral administration, to treat or prevent cancer.

[0064] The term “pharmaceutically effective amount” or “therapeutically effective amount” refers to an amount of a compound of this invention that is effective in treating cancer, in a patient either as monotherapy or in combination with other agents.

[0065] The amount effective to inhibit transketolase activity is one that measurably inhibits the transketolase activity when compared to the activity of the enzyme in the absence of an inhibitor. Measurable inhibition means a measurable change in activity between a sample containing said inhibitor and transketolase and a sample containing said transketolase.

[0066] Treatment of cancer includes any medical intervention resulting in the slowing of tumour growth or reduction in tumour metastases, as well as partial remission of the cancer in order to prolong life expectancy of a patient. As used herein, the term “patient” refers to a mammal, including a human.

[0067] As used herein, the term “subject” refers to a patient or a biological sample. The term “biological sample”, as used herein, includes, without limitation, cell cultures or extracts thereof; preparations of an enzyme suitable for *in vitro* assay; biopsied material obtained from a mammal or extracts thereof; and blood, saliva, urine, feces, semen, tears, or other body fluids or extracts thereof. The term “tumor-derived cell” refers to a cell extracted from a tumor in a subject that has been cultured separately from the tumor, *in vitro* or *in vivo*.

[0068] The term “pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, adjuvant or vehicle” refers to a carrier, adjuvant or vehicle that may be administered to a patient, together with a compound of this invention, and which does not destroy the pharmacological activity thereof and is nontoxic when administered in doses sufficient to deliver a therapeutic amount of the therapeutic agent.

[0069] The term “pharmaceutically acceptable derivative” means any pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ester, salt of an ester, or other derivative of a

compound of this invention which, upon administration to a recipient, is capable of providing (directly or indirectly) a compound of this invention or an inhibitorily active metabolite or residue thereof. Particularly favored derivatives are those that increase the bioavailability of the compounds of this invention when such

5 compounds are administered to a patient (e.g., by allowing an orally administered compound to be more readily absorbed into the blood) or which enhance delivery of the parent compound to a biological compartment relative to the parent species.
[0070] Throughout this specification, the word "comprise" or variations such as "comprises" or "comprising" will be understood to imply the inclusion of a stated
10 integer or groups of integers but not the exclusion of any other integer or group of integers.

[0071] Pharmaceutically acceptable salts of the compounds according to the invention include those derived from pharmaceutically acceptable inorganic and organic acids and bases. Examples of suitable acids include hydrochloric,
15 hydrobromic, sulfuric, nitric, perchloric, fumaric, maleic, phosphoric, glycollic, lactic, salicylic, succinic, toluene-p-sulfonic, tartaric, acetic, citric, methanesulfonic, ethanesulfonic, formic, benzoic, malonic, naphthalene-2-sulfonic and benzenesulfonic acids. Other acids, such as oxalic, while not in themselves pharmaceutically acceptable, may be employed in the preparation of salts useful as
20 intermediates in obtaining the compounds of the invention and their pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts.

[0072] Salts derived from appropriate bases include alkali metal (e.g. sodium), alkaline earth metal (e.g., magnesium), ammonium, NW_4^+ (wherein W is C_{1-4} alkyl) and other amine salts. Physiologically acceptable salts of a hydrogen atom
25 or an amino group include salts of organic carboxylic acids such as acetic, lactic, tartaric, malic, isethionic, lactobionic and succinic acids; organic sulfonic acids such as methanesulfonic, ethanesulfonic, benzenesulfonic and p-toluenesulfonic acids and inorganic acids such as hydrochloric, sulfuric, phosphoric and sulfamic acids. Physiologically acceptable salts of a compound with a hydroxy group
30 include the anion of said compound in combination with a suitable cation such as Na^+ , NH_4^+ , and NW_4^+ (wherein W is a C_{1-4} alkyl group).

[0073] Any reference to any of the above compounds also includes a reference to a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, such as a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ester, and salt of an ester.

5 [0074] Salts of the compounds of the present invention may be made by methods known to a person skilled in the art. For example, treatment of a compound of the present invention with an appropriate base or acid in an appropriate solvent will yield the corresponding salt.

[0075] Esters of the compounds of the present invention are independently selected from the following groups: (1) carboxylic acid esters obtained by esterification of the hydroxy groups, in which the non-carbonyl moiety of the carboxylic acid portion of the ester grouping is selected from straight or branched chain alkyl (for example, acetyl, n-propyl, t-butyl, or n-butyl), alkoxyalkyl (for example, methoxymethyl), aralkyl (for example, benzyl), aryloxyalkyl (for example, phenoxymethyl), aryl (for example, phenyl optionally substituted by, for example, halogen, C₁₋₄alkyl, or C₁₋₄alkoxy or amino); (2) sulfonate esters, such as alkyl- or aralkylsulfonyl (for example, methanesulfonyl); (3) amino acid esters (for example, L-valyl or L-isoleucyl); (4) phosphonate esters and (5) mono-, di- or triphosphate esters. The phosphate esters may be further esterified by, for example, a C₁₋₂₀ alcohol or reactive derivative thereof, or by a 2,3-di (C₆₋₂₄)acyl glycerol.

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[0076] In such esters, unless otherwise specified, any alkyl moiety present preferably contains from 1 to 18 carbon atoms, particularly from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, more particularly from 1 to 4 carbon atoms. Any cycloalkyl moiety present in such esters preferably contains from 3 to 6 carbon atoms. Any aryl moiety present in such esters preferably comprises a phenyl group.

25

[0077] The present invention provides compounds and pharmaceutical compositions thereof and methods of using them to treat (i.e., ameliorate, mitigate, alleviate, slow, or inhibit) or prevent hyperproliferative diseases, such as cancers including but not limited to breast, prostate, ovarian, stomach, colorectal, skin, lung, cervical and bladder cancers, glioma, mesothelioma, as well as various leukemias and sarcomas, such as Kaposi's Sarcoma. The present compounds and pharmaceutical compositions are also useful to inhibit tumor growth, angiogenesis,

30

metastasis and/or otherwise inappropriate cell proliferation. While not intending to be bound by theory, the present compounds inhibit tumor growth by inhibiting non-oxidative pentose phosphate pathways in cells and tumors. The invention thus provides additional methods for using the present compounds and compositions thereof, based on the biochemical activity of the present compounds in a cell.

5 [0078] Transketolase is known to participate in the non-oxidative pentose phosphate pathway which stimulates ribose biosynthetic pathways and thus increases steady-state levels of ribulose-5 phosphate and ribose-5-phosphate in a cell. In another embodiment, the invention provides a method for reducing levels of ribulose-5-phosphate or ribose-5-phosphate in a tumor cell comprising
10 administering to the cell an effective amount of a present compound.

[0079] Moreover, steady-state levels of pentose phosphates, such as ribulose-5-phosphate and ribose-5-phosphate (a substrate for nucleic acid synthesis), influence nucleic acid biosynthetic rates. Thus, in another embodiment, the
15 invention provides a method for inhibiting nucleic acid synthesis in a tumor cell comprising administering to the cell an effective amount of a present compound.

[0080] Increased nucleic acid biosynthesis is required for cell proliferation. Thus in another embodiment, the invention provides a method for inhibiting cell proliferation of a tumor or tumor-derived cell comprising administering to the cell
20 an effective amount of a present compound.

[0081] According to some embodiments, the invention provides an inhibitor that inhibits the proliferation of tumor cells *in vivo*. The tumor cell may be derived from any cell type including, without limitation, epidermal, epithelial, endothelial or mesodermal cells. The tumor cells may be derived from solid or non-solid
25 tumors including, but not limited to, leukemia, sarcoma, multiple myeloma, glioblastoma, choriocarcinoma, Kaposi or cervical intraepithelial neoplasia. In another embodiment, an inhibitor of the present invention inhibits prostate, colon, breast, sarcoma, ovarian, lung and glioblastoma tumor growth in a subject.

[0082] In another embodiment, the invention provides a method for stimulating
30 apoptosis in a tumor or tumor-derived cell comprising administering to the cell an effective amount of a present compound.

[0083] In another embodiment, the invention provides a method for reducing tumor growth, thus treating cancer, in a patient comprising administering an effective amount of a present compound to the patient in need thereof.

[0084] In some embodiments, an inhibitor of the invention is used to treat lung cancer, bone cancer, pancreatic cancer, skin cancer, cancer of the head and neck, cutaneous or intraocular melanoma, uterine cancer, ovarian cancer, rectal cancer, cancer of the anal region, stomach cancer, colon cancer, breast cancer, gynecologic tumors (e.g., uterine sarcomas, carcinoma of the fallopian tubes, carcinoma of the endometrium, carcinoma of the cervix, carcinoma of the vagina or carcinoma of the vulva), Hodgkin's disease, cancer of the esophagus, cancer of the small intestine, cancer of the endocrine system (e.g., cancer of the thyroid, parathyroid or adrenal glands), sarcomas of soft tissues, cancer of the urethra, cancer of the penis, prostate cancer, chronic or acute leukemia, solid tumors of childhood, lymphocytic lymphomas, cancer of the bladder, cancer of the kidney or ureter (e.g., renal cell carcinoma, carcinoma of the renal pelvis), or neoplasms of the central nervous system (e.g., primary CNS lymphoma, spinal axis tumors, brain stem gliomas or pituitary adenomas).

[0085] In yet a further aspect, the present invention provides the use of a compound according to the invention in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prophylaxis of cancer and associated conditions.

[0086] The above compounds according to the invention and their pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives may be employed in combination with other therapeutic agents for the treatment of the above conditions. Combination therapies according to the present invention comprise the administration of a compound of the present invention or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof and another pharmaceutically active agent. The active ingredient(s) and pharmaceutically active agents may be administered simultaneously (i.e., concurrently) in either the same or different pharmaceutical compositions or sequentially in any order. The amounts of the active ingredient(s) and pharmaceutically active agent(s) and the relative timings of administration will be selected in order to achieve the desired combined therapeutic effect.

[0087] Such therapeutic agents may also be a chemotherapeutic agent, an antiangiogenic agent, an agent which modulates signaling associated with hypoxic conditions in a cell (e.g., Avastin™ (bevacizumab), angiostatin and endostatin).

Other therapeutic agents that may be used in combination with the present compounds or compositions include, but are not limited to, cancer therapeutics such as mitotic inhibitors, alkylating agents, alpha-metabolites, intercalating antibiotics, growth factor inhibitors, cell cycle inhibitors, enzymes, topoisomerase inhibitors, anti-metastatic agents, anti-angiogenic agents and radiation. Exemplary cancer therapeutics are farnesyl transferase inhibitors, tamoxifen, herceptin, taxol, STI571, cisplatin, 5-fluorouracil and cytoxan, some of which specifically target members of the *ras* tumorigenic pathway.

[0088] The present compounds and compositions can also be used in combination with agents that create a hypoxic environment. Hypoxia, i.e., lack of oxygen, plays a fundamental role in many pathologic processes. In response to hypoxia, cells activate and express multiple genes. Tumor cells may respond to hypoxia by diminishing their proliferative rates leaving the cells viable but nonproliferating. Some transformed cell lines can also undergo apoptosis in extreme hypoxia and an acidic environment.

[0089] Further, without being limited to any particular mechanism of action, the tumor inhibiting effect of the present compounds or compositions may be associated with inhibition of the non-oxidative pentose phosphate pathway which shuttles carbon from glycolytic reactions to the formation of pentose phosphates used in nucleic acid biosynthesis, including ribulose-5-phosphate and ribose-5-phosphate. Accordingly, in some embodiments, one or more hypoxia-inducing agents are administered simultaneously with, prior to, or subsequent to administration of the present compounds or compositions. The hypoxia-inducing agent may be administered in the same composition comprising the present compounds or may be administered in a separate composition.

[0090] When the present compounds and compositions are used to inhibit tumor cell growth, various stages of cancer are treated by these methods, including neoplasia and malignant tumors. Cancers that can be treated by these methods include, without limitation, cancers that have failed other therapies, cancers at

various stages of evolution (including recurring, resistant and minimal residual cancers), cancers whose etiology involves ras, myc, p53, and all other oncogenes whose expression or mis-expression affects signal transduction pathways involved in cell growth, division, proliferation, apoptosis and/or cell death.

5 **[0091]** The present invention further includes the use of a compound according to the invention in the manufacture of a medicament for simultaneous or sequential administration with at least another therapeutic agent, such as those defined hereinbefore.

10 **[0092]** In general a suitable dose for each of the above-mentioned conditions will be in the range of 0.01 to 600 mg per kilogram body weight of the recipient (e.g. a human) per day, preferably in the range of 0.1 to 100 mg per kilogram body weight per day and most preferably in the range 0.5 to 30 mg per kilogram body weight per day and particularly in the range 1.0 to 20 mg per kilogram body weight per day. Unless otherwise indicated, all weights of active ingredient are calculated as
15 the parent compound of formula I; for derivatives, such as salts and esters thereof, the weights would be increased proportionally. The desired dose may be presented as one, two, three, four, five, six or more sub-doses administered at appropriate intervals throughout the day. In some cases the desired dose may be given on alternative days. These sub-doses may be administered in unit dosage forms, for
20 example, containing 10 to 1000 mg or 50 to 500 mg, preferably 20 to 500 mg, and most preferably 50 to 400 mg of active ingredient per unit dosage form.

25 **[0093]** While it is possible for the active ingredient to be administered alone, it is preferable to present it as a pharmaceutical composition. The compositions of the present invention comprise at least one active ingredient, as defined above, together with one or more acceptable carriers thereof and optionally other therapeutic agents. Each carrier must be acceptable in the sense of being compatible with the other ingredients of the composition and not injurious to the patient.

30 **[0094]** Pharmaceutical compositions include those suitable for oral, rectal, nasal, topical (including transdermal, buccal and sublingual), vaginal or parenteral (including subcutaneous, intramuscular, intravenous, intradermal, and intravitreal) administration. The compositions may conveniently be presented in unit dosage

form and may be prepared by any methods well known in the art of pharmacy. Such methods represent a further feature of the present invention and include the step of bringing into association the active ingredients with the carrier, which constitutes one or more accessory ingredients. In general, the compositions are prepared by uniformly and intimately bringing into association the active ingredients with liquid carriers or finely divided solid carriers or both, and then if necessary shaping the product.

[0095] The present invention further includes a pharmaceutical composition as hereinbefore defined wherein a compound of the present invention or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof and another therapeutic agent are presented separately from one another as a kit of parts. The present compositions can also be used in combination with other cancer therapies involving, e.g., radiation, photosensitizing compounds, anti-neoplastic agents and immunotoxics.

[0096] Compositions suitable for transdermal administration may be presented as discrete patches adapted to remain in intimate contact with the epidermis of the recipient for a prolonged period of time. Such patches suitably contain the active compound 1) in an optionally buffered, aqueous solution or 2) dissolved and/or dispersed in an adhesive or 3) dispersed in a polymer. A suitable concentration of the active compound is about 1% to 25%, preferably about 3% to 15%. As one particular possibility, the active compound may be delivered from the patch by electrotransport or iontophoresis as generally described in Pharmaceutical Research 3(6), 318 (1986).

[0097] Pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention suitable for oral administration may be presented as discrete units such as capsules, caplets, cachets or tablets each containing a predetermined amount of the active ingredients; as a powder or granules; as a solution or a suspension in an aqueous or non-aqueous liquid; or as an oil-in-water liquid emulsion or a water-in-oil liquid emulsion. The active ingredient may also be presented as a bolus, electuary or paste.

[0098] A tablet may be made by compression or molding, optionally with one or more accessory ingredients. Compressed tablets may be prepared by compressing in a suitable machine the active ingredients in a free-flowing form such as a powder or granules, optionally mixed with a binder (e.g. povidone, gelatin,

hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose), lubricant, inert diluent, preservative, disintegrant (e.g. sodium starch glycollate, cross-linked povidone, cross-linked sodium carboxymethyl cellulose) surface-active or dispersing agent. Molded tablets may be made by molding a mixture of the powdered compound moistened with an inert liquid diluent in a suitable machine. The tablets may optionally be coated or scored and may be formulated so as to provide slow or controlled release of the active ingredients therein using, for example, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose in varying proportions to provide the desired release profile. Tablets may optionally be provided with an enteric coating, to provide release in parts of the gut other than the stomach.

[0099] Pharmaceutical compositions suitable for topical administration in the mouth include lozenges comprising the active ingredients in a flavored base, usually sucrose and acacia or tragacanth; pastilles comprising the active ingredient in an inert basis such as gelatin and glycerin, or sucrose and acacia; and mouthwashes comprising the active ingredient in a suitable liquid carrier.

[0100] Pharmaceutical compositions suitable for vaginal administration may be presented as pessaries, tampons, creams, gels, pastes, foams or spray. Pharmaceutical compositions containing in addition to the active ingredient such carriers as are known in the art to be appropriate.

[0101] Pharmaceutical compositions for rectal administration may be presented as a suppository with a suitable carrier comprising, for example, cocoa butter or a salicylate or other materials commonly used in the art. The suppositories may be conveniently formed by admixture of the active combination with the softened or melted carrier(s) followed by chilling and shaping in molds.

[0102] Pharmaceutical compositions suitable for parenteral administration include aqueous and nonaqueous isotonic sterile injection solutions which may contain anti-oxidants, buffers, bacteriostats and solutes which render the pharmaceutical composition isotonic with the blood of the intended recipient; and aqueous and non-aqueous sterile suspensions which may include suspending agents and thickening agents; and liposomes or other microparticulate systems which are designed to target the compound to blood components or one or more organs. The pharmaceutical compositions may be presented in unit-dose or multi-

dose sealed containers, for example, ampoules and vials, and may be stored in a freeze-dried (lyophilized) condition requiring only the addition of the sterile liquid carrier, for example water for injection, immediately prior to use. Extemporaneous injection solutions and suspensions may be prepared from sterile powders, granules and tablets of the kind previously described.

[0103] Unit dosage pharmaceutical compositions include those containing a daily dose or daily subdose of the active ingredients, as hereinbefore recited, or an appropriate fraction thereof.

[0104] It should be understood that in addition to the ingredients particularly mentioned above the pharmaceutical compositions of this invention may include other agents conventional in the art having regard to the type of pharmaceutical composition in question, for example, those suitable for oral administration may include such further agents as sweeteners, thickeners and flavoring agents.

[0105] In certain preferred embodiment, each of the above-described methods is performed on a cell or cells in which the thiamine concentration has been reduced, as described below.

[0106] A typical Western diet is rich in thiamine and many cancer patients take vitamin supplements containing thiamine. Without being bound by theory, some of the present compounds are competitive inhibitors of transketolase. Thus, the present compounds will be more effective as an anti-cancer agent when combined with a low-thiamine diet, wherein vitamin supplements that contain thiamine and thiamine-supplemented or thiamine-rich foods are avoided. Any other method for reducing cellular concentrations of thiamine are envisioned to be useful in combination with the treatment methods of the invention.

[0107] Accordingly, the invention also provides therapeutic methods which comprise the step of administering a present compound or a pharmaceutical composition thereof to a subject in which the thiamine concentration in the subject has been reduced. Preferably, thiamine concentrations in the subject are limited during the administration step. More preferably, steps taken to limit thiamine concentrations in the subject are started before the administration of a present compound, e.g., at least 24 hours before, preferably at least 48 hours before, more preferably at least a week before, and most preferably at least two weeks before the

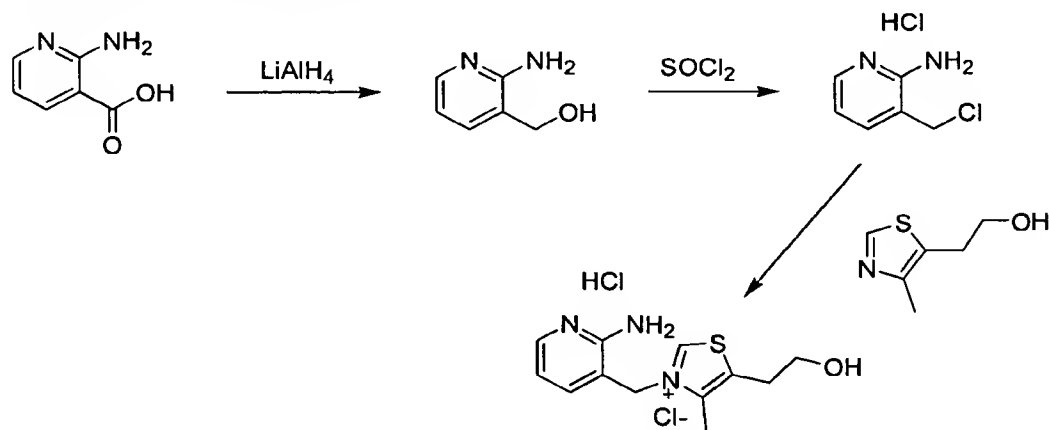
administration step. In addition, it is preferred that thiamine levels continue to be controlled post administration, e.g., for at least 24 hours, preferably at least 48 hours, more preferably at least a week, and most preferably at least two weeks after the administration step. The recommended minimum thiamine intake level is one that is sufficient to avoid symptoms of toxicity associated with thiamine deficiency. Such symptoms, which are usually mild but can become severe in some instances, include (but are not limited to) those of the cardiovascular and nervous systems such as those associated with wet or dry beriberi or neuropathy and/or Wernicke-Korsakoff syndrome, including peripheral vasodilation, biventricular myocardial failure, sodium and water retention, edema, fulminant cardiovascular collapse, confusion, disordered ocular motility, ataxia of gait, neuropathy and cerebellar degeneration. See, e.g., Singleton and Martin, *Curr. Molecular Medicine* 1:197-207 (2001).

[0108] In order that the invention described herein be more fully understood, the following examples are set forth. It should be understood that these examples are for illustrative purposes only and are not to be construed as limiting this invention in any manner.

EXAMPLES

Example 1

3-(2-Aminopyridin-3-ylmethyl)-5-(2-hydroxyethyl)-4-methylthiazol-3-ium chloride hydrochloride (IIa-1)



[0109] a) (2-Aminopyridin-3-yl)methanol. To a solution of 2-aminonicotinic acid (20.5g, 148mmol) in tetrahydrofuran (300mL) at room temperature was added

lithium aluminum hydride (1.0M in tetrahydrofuran, 300mL, 300mmol) dropwise over 45 minutes. The resulting solution was heated to reflux for 18hrs. The mixture was cooled to room temperature and quenched by the sequential dropwise addition of water (11.5mL), 15% aqueous sodium hydroxide (11.5mL), and water (34.5mL). The mixture was stirred for 15min., then filtered through Celite 545. The filter pad was washed thoroughly with tetrahydrofuran (500mL) and 5% methanol in chloroform (500mL). The combined filtrate and washings were evaporated to give 17.7g (96%) of the title compound as a yellow waxy solid. MS(LC/MS/pos): 125.0 (M+H)⁺. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 4.13 (br. s, 1H), 4.59 (s, 2H), 6.56 (m, 1H), 7.29 (d, 1H), 7.90 (d, 1H).

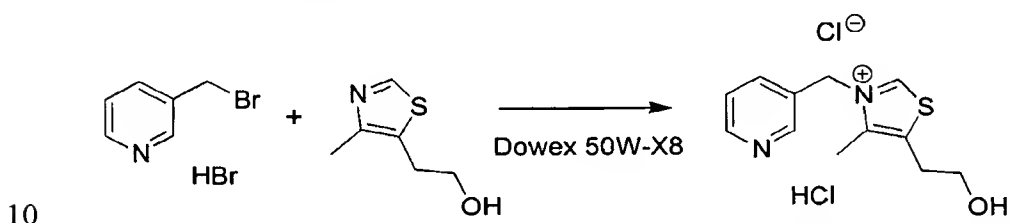
[0110] b) *3-Chloromethylpyridin-2-ylamine hydrochloride*. Thionyl chloride (12.4mL, 170mmol) was added to a 1L round bottom flask containing tetrahydrofuran (500mL). The flask was cooled in an ice-water bath and a solution of (2-aminopyridin-3-yl)methanol (17.6g, 142mmol) in tetrahydrofuran (150mL) was added dropwise at a rate such that the temperature remained below 10°C. The reaction mixture was warmed to room temperature and stirred for an additional 30 minutes. The solvent was evaporated and the residual solid was ground to a fine powder with a mortar and pestle, then dried under vacuum to give 23.2g (92%) of the title compound as a yellow powder. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 4.63 (s, 2H), 6.87 (m, 1H), 7.58 (br s, 2H), 7.85 (m, 2H).

[0111] c) *3-(2-Aminopyridin-3-ylmethyl)-5-(2-hydroxyethyl)-4-methylthiazol-3-ium chloride hydrochloride*. Into a 250 mL round bottom flask was placed 2-(4-methylthiazol-5-yl)ethanol (7.2mL, 60mmol) and the flask was placed in an oil bath heated to 100°C. 3-Chloromethylpyridin-2-ylamine hydrochloride (0.54g, 3.0mmol) was added as the solid in small portions and the mixture was stirred for 30 min. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and diluted with dichloromethane (120mL). After stirring for 30 min., the solvent was evaporated and the residual solid was triturated with a small amount of acetone. The suspension was cooled to 0°C and the precipitated solid was removed by filtration and washed with acetone (3x10mL). The crude precipitate was dissolved in a minimal amount of methanol and ether was added slowly until a white precipitate started to form. The suspension was placed in the freezer for 15 minutes after

which time the precipitated solid was collected by filtration, washed generously with ether and dried under vacuum to give 0.33g (35%) of the title compound as an off-white powder. MS(LC/MS/pos): 249.9 (M^+). ^1H NMR ($\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ 3.06 (t, 2H), 3.65 (t, 2H), 5.68 (s, 2H), 6.95 (t, 1H), 7.85 (d, 1H), 8.17 (d, 2H), 8.36 (br s, 1H), 9.90 (s, 1H).

Example 2

5-(2-Hydroxyethyl)-4-methyl-3-pyridin-3-ylmethyl thiazol-3-ium chloride hydrochloride (IIa-2)



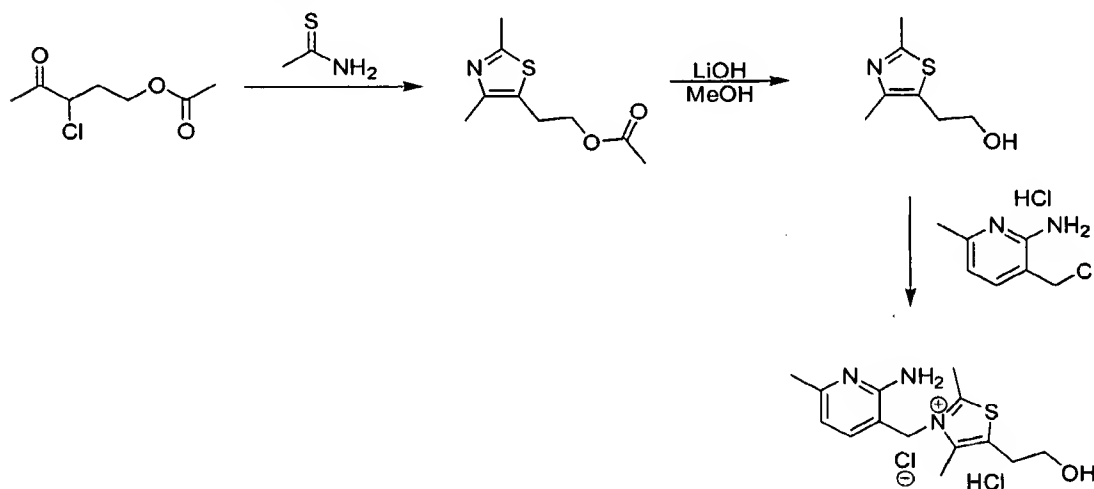
[0112] 3-Bromomethyl pyridine hydrobromide (5.06g, 20.0mmol) was added in portions over a 30-minute period to stirred 2-(4-methylthiazol-5-yl)ethanol (57.3g, 400mmol) that was heated to 90°C. The reaction was heated for an additional 30 minutes. The dark red mixture was cooled to room temperature and diluted with diethyl ether (50mL). The heterogeneous mixture was stirred for 1 minute, and then the supernatant was decanted. This process was repeated four times, reserving the residual crude product. The combined supernatants were decanted leaving a second residue. The supernatants were discarded. The first and second residues were pooled and chromatographed on silica gel, Biotage Flash 40, eluting with 10% methanol (containing 7N ammonia) in dichloromethane, and then 20% methanol (containing 7N ammonia) in dichloromethane. The impure product (5.6g) was a viscous, orange residue. The orange residue was triturated with boiling isopropanol (20mL), and was allowed to cool to room temperature. The resulting white precipitate (1g, presumably ammonium bromide) was removed by filtration, and the mother liquor was concentrated giving an orange residue (4.05g). A 1g portion of this crude was dissolved in water (2mL), and loaded on to a Dowex 50W-X8 cation exchange resin (5cmx10cm; 100-200 mesh; hydrogen form). The product was eluted with the following gradient: water, then 0.2N–6N aqueous HCl. The product-containing fractions were pooled and concentrated

using a toluene azeotrope. The resulting residue was triturated with 1:1 ethanol/diethyl ether (100mL), then filtered and dried under high vacuum (over a CaSO₄ desiccator) to give 480mg (32% yield based on amount subjected to Dowex) of the title compound as a fine, pink powder. MS (APCI +) *m/z* 235 (M⁺) detected; HPLC (C16-amide column using K₃PO₄ phosphate buffer): *R*_T = 5.44min, 98.2% (230nm); ¹H NMR (400MHz, D₂O) δ 9.82 (m, 1H), 8.72 (m, 2H), 8.33 (m, 1H), 7.99 (m, 1H), 5.86 (m, 2H), 3.70 (m, 2H), 3.01 (m, 2H), 2.28 (m, 3H).

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Example 3

3-(2-Amino-6-methylpyridin-3-ylmethyl)-5-(2-hydroxyethyl)-2,4-dimethylthiazol-3-ium chloride hydrochloride (IIa-3)



[0113] a) *Acetic acid 2-(2,4-dimethylthiazol-5-yl) ethyl ester*. Acetic acid 3-chloro-4-oxo-pentyl ester (prepared from 2-acetylbutyrolactone as described in *J. Med. Chem.* **1979**, 22(3), 306) (4.75g, 27mmol) and thioacetamide (2g, 27mmol) were heated to 110-120°C under a stream of nitrogen for 30 minutes. Cooling of the reaction gave 5.3g (100%) of the title compound as a thick tan oil: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 2.09 (s, 3H), 2.56 (s, 3H), 3.01 (s, 3H), 3.10 (t, 2H), 4.26 (t, 2H); MS (APCI+) *m/z* (rel intensity) 200.0 (100).

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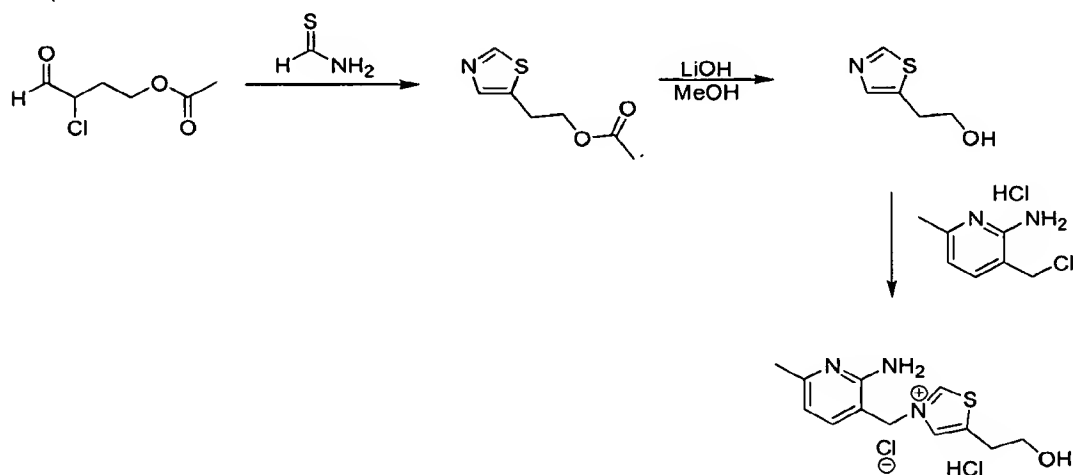
[0114] b) *2-(2,4-Dimethylthiazol-5-yl)ethanol*. To a solution of acetic acid 2-(2,4-dimethylthiazol-5-yl) ethyl ester (5g, 25mmol) in methanol (100mL) was added lithium hydroxide monohydrate (1.05g, 25mmol) and the reaction was stirred for 1 hour. The solution was concentrated in vacuo and the resulting paste

partitioned between water (100mL) and dichloromethane (100mL). The aqueous phase was extracted with dichloromethane and the combined organic phases were dried over magnesium sulfate. Concentration gave 3.2g (81%) of the title compound as a clear oil: ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ 1.90 (t, 1H), 2.27 (s, 3H), 2.57 (s, 3H), 2.90 (t, 2H), 3.76 (q, 2H); MS (APCI+) m/z (rel intensity) 158.0 (100).

[0115] c) *3-(2-Amino-6-methylpyridin-3-ylmethyl)-5-(2-hydroxyethyl)-2,4-dimethylthiazol-3-ium chloride hydrochloride*. 2-(2,4-Dimethylthiazol-5-yl)ethanol (180mg, 1.1mmol) and 3-chloromethyl-6-methylpyridin-2-ylamine hydrochloride (Example 6, part (e), 200mg, 1mmol) were mixed together in a conical vial and stirred at 60°C for 20 minutes. While the reaction was still warm, dichloromethane was added and the resulting solid was collected by filtration and dried under vacuum to give 271mg (83%) of the title compound as a white powder: ^1H NMR (d_6 -DMSO) δ 2.34 (s, 3H), 2.45 (s, 3H), 2.95 (s, 3H), 3.03 (t, 2H), 3.66 (t, 2H), 5.69 (s, 2H), 6.66 (d, 1H), 7.05 (d, 1H), 8.30 (br s, 1H); MS (APCI+) m/z (rel intensity) 278.0 (60).

Example 4

3-(2-Amino-6-methylpyridin-3-ylmethyl)-5-(2-hydroxyethyl)thiazol-3-ium chloride hydrochloride (IIa-4)



[0116] a) *Acetic acid 2-thiazol-5-yl ethyl ester*. Following the procedure described in Example 3, part (a), acetic acid 3-chloro-4-oxo-butyl ester (prepared from 1,4-butane-diol as described in *J. Chem. Soc. Perkin Trans 1*, 1998, 3565) (1.64g, 10mmol) and thioformamide (prepared from formamide as described in *J.*

Am. Chem. Soc. **1953**, 75(18), 4456) (610mg, 10mmol) gave 1.7g (100%) of the title compound as a brown oil: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 2.10 (s, 3H), 3.30 (t, 2H), 4.34 (t, 2H), 8.00 (s, 1H), 9.58 (s, 1H); MS (APCI+) *m/z* (rel intensity) 171.9 (100).

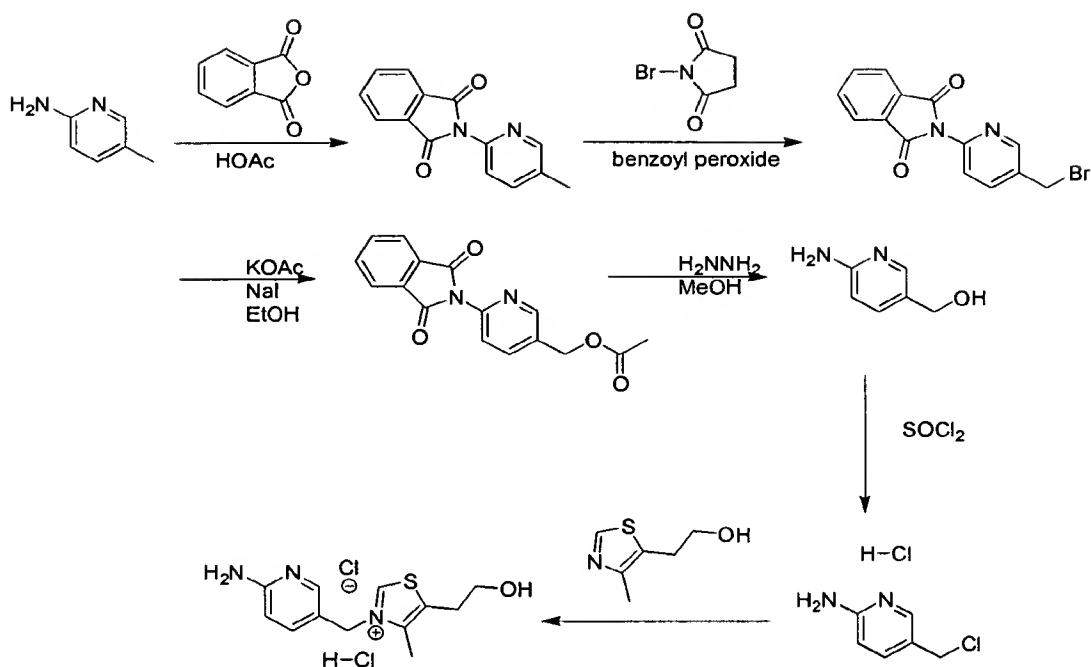
[0117] b) *2-Thiazol-5-ylethanol*. The title compound (350mg, 28%) was

5 obtained as a clear liquid after purification by chromatography (dichloromethane/methanol 90/10), following the procedure described in Example 3, part (b) using acetic acid 2-thiazol-5-yl ethyl ester (1.7 g, 10 mmol): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.86 (t, 1H), 3.12 (t, 2H), 3.88 (q, 2H), 7.69 (s, 1H), 8.69 (s, 1H).

[0118] c) *3-(2-Amino-6-methylpyridin-3-ylmethyl)-5-(2-hydroxyethyl)thiazol-3-ium chloride hydrochloride*. Following the procedure described in Example 3, part
10 (c), 2-thiazol-5-yl-ethanol (150mg, 1.1mmol) and 3-chloromethyl-6-methylpyridin-2-ylamine hydrochloride (200mg, 1mmol) gave, after recrystallization from hot ethanol, 173mg (58%) of the title compound as a white solid: ¹H NMR (d₆-DMSO) δ 2.46 (s, 3H), 3.04 (t, 2H), 3.63 (t, 2H), 5.81 (s, 2H), 6.83 (d, 1H),
15 8.06 (d, 1H), 8.20 (br s, 1H), 8.34 (s, 1H), 10.28 (s, 1H); MS (APCI+) *m/z* (rel intensity) 250.0 (70).

Example 5

3-(6-Aminopyridin-3-ylmethyl)-5-(2-hydroxyethyl)-4-methylthiazol-3-ium
20 chloride hydrochloride (IIa-5)



- [0119] a) 2-(5-Methylpyridin-2-yl)isoindole-1,3-dione. To a solution of 5-methylpyridin-2-ylamine (4.00g, 37.0mmol) in acetic acid (100mL) was added phthalic anhydride (5.48mL, 37.0mmol). The resulting solution was stirred and heated to 120°C. After 18hrs, the solution was cooled to room temperature and treated with saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate (1000mL). The resulting mixture was extracted with dichloromethane (2x500mL). The organic layer was dried over sodium sulfate and evaporated to give 7.85g (89%) of the title compound as a white powder. LCMS (APCI+) R_T =2.66 min. m/z 239 (M+H) detected. ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.51 (s, 1H, Ar-H), 7.97 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.80 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 7.69 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 7.34 (d, 1H, J =7.81 Hz, Ar-H), 2.41 (s, 3H, Ar- CH_3).
- [0120] b) 2-(5-Bromomethylpyridin-2-yl)isoindole-1,3-dione. To a solution of 2-(5-methylpyridin-2-yl)isoindole-1,3-dione (5.05g, 21.2mmol) in carbon tetrachloride (150mL) was added N-bromosuccinimide (3.96g, 22.3mmol) with stirring. The solution was heated to 80°C and placed behind a blast shield. Benzoyl peroxide (0.41g, 1.7mmol) was added in 100mg portions over 6 hrs. Following completion of addition, the resulting dark mixture was stirred for 24 hrs. An additional 100mg of benzoyl peroxide was added and the reaction mixture stirred for an additional 24 hrs. The mixture was cooled to room temperature,

diluted with dichloromethane (200mL), and washed with 1M sodium thiosulfate (250mL) to destroy any unreacted N-bromosuccinimide. The organic layer was dried over sodium sulfate and evaporated. The residual oil was chromatographed on silica gel (Biotage 40; 50/50 hexane/ethyl acetate, fraction size 15mL). The product coeluted with unreacted starting material. Like fractions were combined and evaporated to give 3.50g (50% pure, 26% yield) of the title compound as a yellow powder. ¹H NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.69 (d, 1H, *J*=2.73Hz, Ar-*H*), 8.12 (d, 1H, *J*=8.59Hz, Ar-*H*), 7.96 (m, 3H, Ar-*H*), 7.82 (m, 2H, Ar-*H*), 4.53 (s, 2H, AR-CH₂-Br).

[0121] c) *Acetic acid 6-(1,3-dioxo-1,3-dihydroisoindol-2-yl)pyridin-3-ylmethyl ester*. To a solution of 2-(5-bromomethyl-pyridin-2-yl)-isoindole-1,3-dione (1.75g, 5.51mmol, 35% by weight) in ethanol (70mL) was added potassium acetate (0.28g, 2.90mmol) and sodium iodide (29mg, 0.19mmol). The mixture was stirred and heated to reflux for 18 hrs. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and concentrated to dryness. The residue was dissolved in ethyl acetate and filtered to remove inorganic salts. The filtrate was chromatographed on silica gel (Biotage 15, 50/50 hexane/ethyl acetate, fraction size 4mL). The like fractions were combined and concentrated to give 0.200g (35%) of the title compound as a white powder. LCMS (APCI+) R_T = 2.92 min. *m/z* 285 (M-11) detected. ¹H NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.50 (s, 1H, Ar-*H*), 8.40 (d, 1H, *J*=8.98Hz, Ar-*H*), 7.98 (m, 2H, Ar-*H*), 7.75 (m, 2H, Ar-*H*), 7.54 (m, 1H, Ar-*H*), 4.97 (s, 2H, Ar-CH₂-OAc), 2.10 (s, 3H, OCOCH₃).

[0122] d) *(6-Amino-pyridin-3-yl)methanol*. To a solution of acetic acid 6-(1,3-dioxo-1,3-dihydroisoindol-2-yl)pyridin-3-ylmethyl ester (0.200g, 0.675mmol) was added methanol (10mL). Hydrazine (0.065g, 2.03mmol) was added and the mixture was heated to reflux for 2 hrs. A white precipitate formed after 30 min. The reaction was cooled to room temperature and filtered. The filtrate was concentrated and the residue was chromatographed on silica gel (Biotage 15, 15% 7N methanolic ammonium/dichloromethane) to give 0.025g (30%) of the title compound as clear oil. LCMS (APCI+) R_T=0.31 min. *m/z* 125 (M+H)⁺.

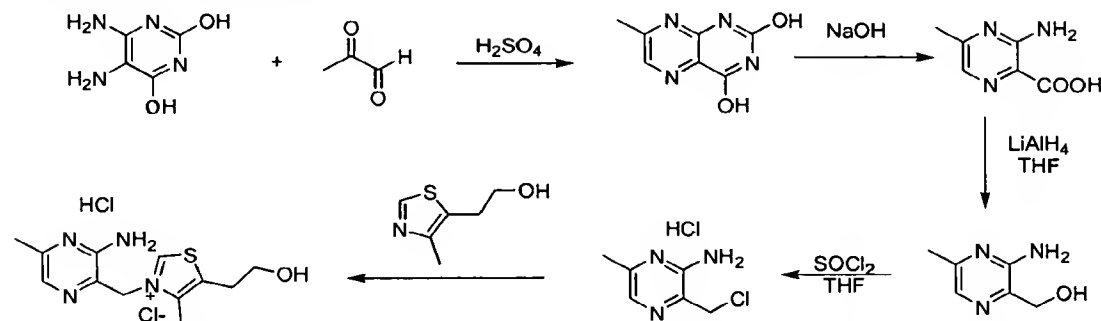
[0123] e) *5-Chloromethylpyridin-2-ylamine hydrochloride*. To a 25mL flask was added (6-aminopyridin-3-yl)methanol (0.025g, 0.20mmol) and tetrahydrofuran

(5mL). Thionyl chloride (0.048g, 0.405mmol) was added with vigorous stirring. The mixture was stirred for 30 min and concentrated to dryness to afford 0.035g (60%, 60% by weight) of the title compound as a bright yellow solid. ¹H NMR (400MHz, DMSO) δ 7.82(s, 1H, Ar-H), 7.32 (d, 1H, J=8.20Hz, Ar-H), 6.42 (d, 1H, J=8.20Hz, Ar-H), 5.69 (s, 2H, Ar-NH₂), 4.09 (s, 2H, Ar-CH-Cl).

[0124] f) 3-(6-Aminopyridin-3-ylmethyl)-5-(2-hydroxyethyl)-4-methylthiazol-3-ium chloride hydrochloride. To a 20mL flask was added 2-(4-methylthiazol-5-yl)ethanol (0.336g, 2.35mmol). The flask was placed in an oil bath heated to 100°C. 5-Chloromethylpyridin-2-ylamine hydrochloride (0.035g, 1.18mmol, 60% by wt), was added in portions over 10 min and the reaction mixture was stirred for 30 min. The mixture was cooled to room temperature and washed with diethyl ether (20mL) to remove the majority of the excess thiazole. The residual oil was dissolved in methanol (1mL) and precipitated with dichloromethane (5mL). The precipitate was collected by filtration, washed with dichloromethane (20mL), and dried under vacuum to give 14.2mg (42%) of the title compound as a white powder. ¹H NMR (400MHz, D₂O) δ 9.59 (s, 1H, Ar-H), 7.77 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.68 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 6.94 (d, 1H, J=9.37Hz, Ar-H), 5.44 (s, 2H, ArCH₂Ar), 3.69 (t, 2H, J=5.86Hz, Ar-CH₂CH₂OH), 2.98 (t, 2H, J=5.86Hz, Ar-CH₂CH₂OH), 2.32 (s, 3H, Ar-CH₃).

Example 6

3-(3-Amino-5-methyl-pyrazin-2-ylmethyl)-5-(2-hydroxyethyl)-4-methylthiazol-3-ium chloride hydrochloride (IIc-1)



[0125] a) 7-Methylpteridine-2,4-diol. Prepared according to the procedure of Rimoli et al., *Eur. J. Med. Chem.* **1997**, 32, 195-203. A suspension of 5,6-diaminouracil (97%, as the sulfate salt, 50g, 254mmol) in water (1400mL) was

treated with a 40% aqueous solution of methylglyoxal (100mL, 660mmol). Addition of 10% sulfuric acid (25mL) brought the pH to 1.5. A short-path distillation head was attached and the mixture was stirred and heated to boiling. About 700mL of water distilled off over 5 hours. The residual mixture was cooled to 2°C in an ice-salt bath and the pH adjusted to around 9 with 6M sodium hydroxide. The cold mixture was allowed to stand in the refrigerator overnight. The precipitate that formed was collected by filtration, washed once with water, and dried under vacuum to give 40.4g (89%) of the title compound as a light brown powder. MS(LC/MS/neg): 177.0 (M-H)⁻. ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆) δ 2.37 (s, 3H), 7.80 (s, 1H).

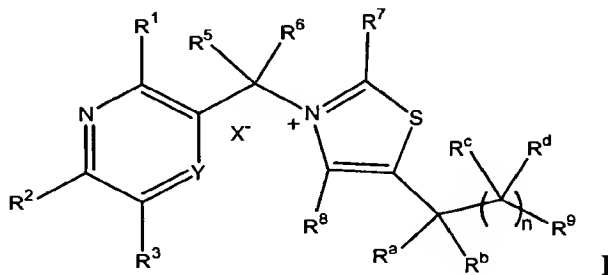
[0126] b) *3-Amino-5-methylpyrazine-2-carboxylic acid*. Prepared according to the procedure of Rimoli et al., *Eur. J. Med. Chem.* **1997**, 32, 195-203. To a solution of sodium hydroxide (34.0g, 850mmol) in water (210mL) was added 7-methylpteridine-2,4-diol (40.4g, 227mmol), and the resulting mixture was stirred and heated to reflux for 4 days. The resulting solution was cooled to room temperature and acidified to pH 1.5 with concentrated hydrochloric acid. The resulting precipitate was collected by filtration, washed with water, and dried under vacuum to give 15.1g (43%) of the title compound as a light tan powder. ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆) δ 2.35 (s, 3H), 7.33 (br s, 2H), 7.79 (s, 1H).

[0127] c) *(3-Amino-5-methylpyrazin-2-yl)methanol*. To a stirred suspension of 3-amino-5-methylpyrazine-2-carboxylic acid (15.1g, 98.6mmol) in tetrahydrofuran (750mL) under nitrogen was added a solution of lithium aluminum hydride (1.0M in tetrahydrofuran, 110mL, 110mmol) dropwise over 30 minutes. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for an additional hour. Water (35mL) was added dropwise and the solid that formed was removed by filtration. The filtrate was evaporated and the crude solid was suspended in methanol (100mL). The suspension was heated to boiling and the small amount of white precipitate was removed by hot filtration. The filtrate was cooled to room temperature, then evaporated to dryness to give 2.88g (21%) of the title compound as a yellow solid. ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆) δ 2.23 (s, 3H), 4.44 (br s, 2H), 5.20 (br s, 1H), 6.05 (br s, 2H), 7.55 (s, 1H).

- [0128] d) *3-Chloromethyl-6-methylpyrazin-2-ylamine hydrochloride*. Thionyl chloride (2.0mL, 27.6mmol) was added to a 500mL round bottom flask containing tetrahydrofuran (85mL). The flask was cooled in an ice-water bath and a solution of (3-amino-5-methylpyrazin-2-yl)methanol (2.88g, 23.0mmol) in tetrahydrofuran (25mL) was added dropwise at a rate such that the temperature remained below 10°C. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and was stirred for an additional 1 hour. The solvent was evaporated and the residual solid was dried under full vacuum to give 3.98g (96%) of the title compound as brown powder. ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆) δ 2.35 (s, 3H), 4.85 (s, 2H), 7.77 (s, 1H).
- 10 [0129] e) *3-(3-Amino-5-methylpyrazin-2-ylmethyl)-5-(2-hydroxyethyl)-4-methylthiazol-3-ium chloride hydrochloride*. Into a 50mL round bottom flask was placed 2-(4-methylthiazol-5-yl)ethanol (3.1mL, 26mmol) and the flask was then placed in an oil bath heated to 100°C. Solid 3-chloromethyl-6-methylpyrazin-2-ylamine hydrochloride (250mg, 1.3mmol) was added as the solid in small portions and the mixture was stirred for an additional 30 min. The solvent was evaporated and the residual oil was triturated with acetone. A light brown precipitate formed and was collected by filtration. The solid was stirred in hot ethanol (10mL) for 30 min and collected by filtration, then dried under vacuum to give 130mg (30%) of the title compound as a brown solid. ¹H NMR (D₂O) δ 2.17 (s, 3H), 2.28 (s, 3H), 3.01 (t, 2H), 3.72 (t, 2H), 5.63 (s, 2H), 7.55 (s, 1H), 9.65 (s, 1H).
- 20

Exemplary embodiments of the present invention include the following:

1. A compound of formula I:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, wherein:

5 Y is N or C(R⁴);

R¹ is H, alkyl, -N(R)₂, -(CH₂)₁₋₆N(R^o)₂, -(CH₂)₁₋₆OR^o, -NRC(O)R, -C(O)N(R)₂, -CN, -NRSO₂R, -COOR, -OR, -SR, -C(O)R, halo, -OC(O)R, -NRC(O)OR, -OC(O)N(R)₂, -NRC(O)NR, -NRC(S)NR, -NRSO₂NR, -C(O)NRN(R)₂, heteroaryl, or heterocyclyl;

10 each R², R³ and R⁴ is independently H, alkyl, fluoroalkyl, -C(O)R, -COOR, -C(O)N(R)₂, -CN, -NRC(O)R, -OR, -SR, -N(R)₂, -(CH₂)₁₋₆OR^o, -(CH₂)₁₋₆N(R^o)₂, or halo;

each R⁵ and R⁶ is independently H, alkyl, or fluoroalkyl;

15 R⁷ is H, alkyl, fluoroalkyl, aralkyl, carbocyclylalkyl, heterocyclyl, carbocyclyl, heterocyclylalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, heteroaralkyl, -C(O)R, -(CH₂)₁₋₆OR, -(CH₂)₁₋₆N(R)₂, -C(O)CH₂C(O)R, -NRC(O)R, -N(R)₂, -C(O)N(R)₂, or -C(H)(OR)R;

R⁸ is H, alkyl, fluoroalkyl, carbocyclyl, carbocyclylalkyl, heteroaryl, heterocyclyl, -CO₂R, or -CON(R)₂;

20 R⁹ is -OR¹⁰ or -NR¹¹R¹²;

R¹⁰ is R^o, -C(O)R, -C(O)N(R)₂, -C(O)OR, -(CH₂)₁₋₆-C(O)R, -PO₃M_x, -P(O)(alkyl)OM', -(PO₃)₂M_y, carbocyclyl, aryl, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl, carbocyclylalkyl, aralkyl, heterocyclylalkyl, heteroaralkyl, or a tumor-targeting moiety;

25 x is 1 or 2;

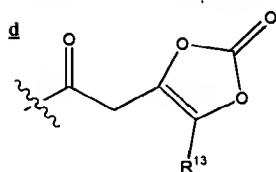
y is 1, 2 or 3;

each M is independently H, Li, Na, K, Mg, Ca, Mn, Co, Ni, Zn, or alkyl;

- M' is H, Li, Na, K, or alkyl;
R¹¹ is H or alkyl;
R¹² is H, alkyl, -C(O)R, -C(O)N(R)₂, -C(O)OR, -SO₂R, -SO₂N(R)₂,
carbocyclyl, aryl, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl, carbocyclylalkyl, aralkyl,
5 heterocyclylalkyl, heteroaralkyl or a tumor targeting moiety;
each R^a and R^b is independently H, OR^o, alkyl, or fluoroalkyl;
each R^c and R^d is independently H, alkyl, or fluoroalkyl;
n is 0-4;
X⁻ is a monovalent or divalent anion, or a counterion to the thiazolium
10 nitrogen located anywhere in the molecule;
R^o is H or alkyl; and
R is R^o, carbocyclyl, aryl, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl, carbocyclylalkyl,
aralkyl, heterocyclylalkyl, or heteroaralkyl;
provided that the following compounds are excluded:
15 Y is C(R⁴);
R⁵, R⁶, R^a, R^b, R^c and R^d are H;
R⁸ is methyl;
R⁹ is -OR¹⁰, and R¹⁰ is H, -PO₃M_x, -(PO₃)₂M_y or -P(O)(alkyl)OM';
X⁻ is Cl⁻ or Br⁻;
20 i) R¹ is H, R² is methyl, R³ is -OH, R⁴ is methyl, -CH₂OH or
-CH₂NH₂, and R⁷ is H;
ii) R¹ is -NH₂, -NHMe or -N(Me)₂, R² is methyl, R³ is H, R⁴ is H or
-CH₃, and R⁷ is H;
iii) R¹ is -NH₂ or OH, R² is methyl, R³ is H, R⁴ is H, and R⁷ is H;
25 iv) R¹ and R³ are H, R² is methyl, R⁴ is -NH₂, and R⁷ is H;
v) R¹ is -NH₂, R² is methyl, R³ and R⁴ are H, and R⁷ is H,
-CH(OH)CO₂H or -C(OH)(Me)CO₂H;
vi) R¹, R³, R⁴ and R⁷ are H and R² is methyl; and
vii) R¹ is H, R² is -NH₂, R³ is -OH, R⁴ is -CH₂CH₂NH₂, and R⁷ is H.
30 2. The compound of 1, wherein R¹⁰ is -C(O)R, -C(O)N(R)₂,
-C(O)OR, -(CH₂)₁₋₆-C(O)R, alkyl, carbocyclyl, aryl, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl,
carbocyclylalkyl, aralkyl, heterocyclylalkyl, heteroaralkyl, or a tumor-targeting

moiety; and R^{12} is $-C(O)R$, $-C(O)N(R)_2$, $-C(O)OR$, $-SO_2R$, $-SO_2N(R)_2$, carbocyclyl, aryl, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl, carbocyclalkyl, aralkyl, heterocyclalkyl, heteroaralkyl or a tumor-targeting moiety.

3. The compound of 1, wherein R^{10} or R^{12} is a polysaccharide,
 5 $-[C(O)CH(R)N(R)]_{2-3}-R$, an antibody, or



, wherein R^{13} is H, alkyl, or aryl.

4. The compound of 1, wherein said compound has one or more features selected from the group consisting of:

- i) R^1 is $-(CH_2)_{1-6}N(R^o)_2$, $-(CH_2)_{1-6}OR^o$, $-NRC(O)R$, $-C(O)N(R)_2$, $-CN$,
 10 $-N(R)SO_2R$, $-COOR$, $-SR$, $-C(O)R$, halo, $-OC(O)R$, $-NRC(O)OR$, $-OC(O)N(R)_2$, $-N(R)C(O)N(R)$, $-NRC(S)NR$, $-NRSO_2NR$, $-C(O)NRN(R)_2$, heteroaryl, or heterocyclyl;
- ii) R^2 is H, fluoroalkyl, $-C(O)R$, $-COOR$, $-C(O)N(R)_2$, $-CN$, $-NRC(O)R$, $-OR$, $-SR$, $-N(R)_2$, $-(CH_2)_{1-6}OR^o$, $-(CH_2)_{1-6}N(R^o)_2$, or halo;
- 15 iii) R^3 is alkyl, fluoroalkyl, $-C(O)R$, $-COOR$, $-C(O)N(R)_2$, $-CN$, $-NRC(O)R$, $-SR$, $-N(R)_2$, $-(CH_2)_{1-6}OR^o$, $-(CH_2)_{1-6}N(R^o)_2$, or halo;
- iv) R^4 is fluoroalkyl, $-C(O)R$, $-COOR$, $-C(O)N(R)_2$, $-CN$, $-NRC(O)R$, $-OR$, $-SR$, $-(CH_2)_{1-6}N(R^o)_2$, or halo;
- v) R^{10} is H, $-PO_3M_x$, $-(PO_3)_2M_y$ or $-P(O)(alkyl)OM'$; or R^{12} is H or C_{1-6}
 20 alkyl; and
- vi) n is 1.

5. The compound of 4, wherein:

- i) R^1 is $-(CH_2)_{1-6}N(R^o)_2$, $-(CH_2)_{1-6}OR^o$, $-NRC(O)R$, $-C(O)N(R)_2$, $-CN$, $-N(R)SO_2R$, $-COOR$, $-SR$, $-C(O)R$, halo, $-OC(O)R$, $-NRC(O)OR$, $-OC(O)N(R)_2$,
 25 $-N(R)C(O)N(R)$, $-NRC(S)NR$, $-NRSO_2NR$, $-C(O)NRN(R)_2$, heteroaryl, or heterocyclyl;
- ii) R^2 is H, fluoroalkyl, $-C(O)R$, $-COOR$, $-C(O)N(R)_2$, $-CN$, $-NRC(O)R$, $-OR$, $-SR$, $-N(R)_2$, $-(CH_2)_{1-6}OR^o$, $-(CH_2)_{1-6}N(R^o)_2$, or halo;

iii) R^3 is alkyl, fluoroalkyl, $-C(O)R$, $-COOR$, $-C(O)N(R)_2$, $-CN$, $-NRC(O)R$, $-SR$, $-N(R)_2$, $-(CH_2)_{1-6}OR^\circ$, $-(CH_2)_{1-6}N(R^\circ)_2$, or halo;

iv) R^4 is fluoroalkyl, $-C(O)R$, $-COOR$, $-C(O)N(R)_2$, $-CN$, $-NRC(O)R$, $-OR$, $-SR$, $-(CH_2)_{1-6}N(R^\circ)_2$, or halo;

5 v) R^{10} is H, $-PO_3M_x$, $-(PO_3)_2M_y$ or $-P(O)(alkyl)OM'$; or R^{12} is H or C_{1-6} alkyl; and

vi) n is 1.

6. The compound of 1, wherein said compound has one or more features selected from the group consisting of:

10 i) R^1 is H, $-N(R)_2$, alkyl, $-NR^\circ C(O)NR$, $-NR^\circ C(O)OR$, $-C(O)N(R)_2$, $-(CH_2)_{1-6}N(R^\circ)_2$, $-NR^\circ C(O)R$, $-CN$, $-COOR$, $-OR$, $-SR$, or halo;

ii) R^2 is H, alkyl, fluoroalkyl, $-OR^\circ$, $-N(R^\circ)_2$, or halo;

iii) R^3 and R^4 are independently H, alkyl, $-OR$, $-N(R)_2$, $-(CH_2)_{1-6}OR^\circ$, or $-(CH_2)_{1-6}N(R^\circ)_2$;

15 iv) R^7 is H, alkyl, fluoroalkyl, $-(CH_2)_{1-6}OR$, $-(CH_2)_{1-6}N(R)_2$, $-NR^\circ C(O)R$, $-C(O)R$, $-C(H)(OR)R$, aralkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkyl, heteroaryl, or heteroaralkyl;

v) R^{10} is H, alkyl, $-C(O)R$, $-PO_3M_x$, $-P(O)(alkyl)OM'$, $-(PO_3)_2M_y$, $-C(O)N(R)_2$, $-C(O)OR$, or a tumor-targeting moiety; or R^{12} is H, alkyl, $-C(O)R$, $-C(O)N(R)_2$, $-C(O)OR$, $-SO_2R$, 5-membered heterocyclyl, 5-membered heteroaralkyl, or a tumor-targeting moiety; and

vi) n is 1.

7. The compound of 6, wherein:

25 i) R^1 is H, $-N(R)_2$, alkyl, $-NR^\circ C(O)NR$, $-NR^\circ C(O)OR$, $-C(O)N(R)_2$, $-(CH_2)_{1-6}N(R^\circ)_2$, $-NR^\circ C(O)R$, $-CN$, $-COOR$, $-OR$, $-SR$, or halo;

ii) R^2 is H, alkyl, fluoroalkyl, $-OR^\circ$, $-N(R^\circ)_2$, or halo;

iii) R^3 and R^4 are independently H, alkyl, $-OR$, $-N(R)_2$, $-(CH_2)_{1-6}OR^\circ$, or $-(CH_2)_{1-6}N(R^\circ)_2$;

30 iv) R^7 is H, alkyl, fluoroalkyl, $-(CH_2)_{1-6}OR$, $-(CH_2)_{1-6}N(R)_2$, $-NR^\circ C(O)R$, $-C(O)R$, $-C(H)(OR)R$, aralkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkyl, heteroaryl, or heteroaralkyl;

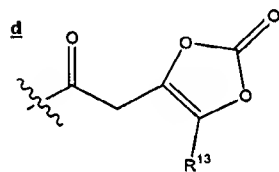
v) R^{10} is H, alkyl, $-C(O)R$, $-PO_3M_x$, $-P(O)(alkyl)OM'$, $-(PO_3)_2M_y$, $-C(O)N(R)_2$, $-C(O)OR$, or a tumor-targeting moiety; or R^{12} is H, alkyl, $-C(O)R$, $-C(O)N(R)_2$, $-C(O)OR$, $-SO_2R$, 5-membered heterocyclyl, 5-membered heteroaralkyl, or a tumor-targeting moiety; and

5 vi) n is 1.

8. The compound of 6 or 7, wherein R is R° , carbocyclyl, aryl, heteroaryl, heterocyclyl, aralkyl, heterocyclalkyl or heteroaralkyl.

9. The compound of 8, wherein R° is H or C_{1-6} alkyl optionally substituted with halo, hydroxy or amino.

10 10. The compound of 6 or 7, wherein R^{10} or R^{12} is a polysaccharide, $-[C(O)CH(R)N(R)]_{2-3}-R$, an antibody, or



, wherein R^{13} is H, alkyl, or aryl.

11. The compound of 6 or 7, wherein said compound has one or more of the features selected from the group consisting of:

15 i) R^1 is H, amino, $-CH_2NH_2$, $-NHC(O)NH\text{Et}$, $-NHC(O)O\text{Et}$, $-NHCH_2OH$, $-NHCH_2CH_2OH$, $-NH-CH_2CH_2Cl$, $-N(CH_2OH)_2$, Cl, Br, $-SCH_3$, CN, $-C(O)NH_2$, $-C(O)OH$, methyl, or ethyl;

ii) R^2 is H, methyl, ethyl, amino, CF_3 , Cl, or Br;

iii) R^3 is H, methyl, ethyl, amino, or hydroxy;

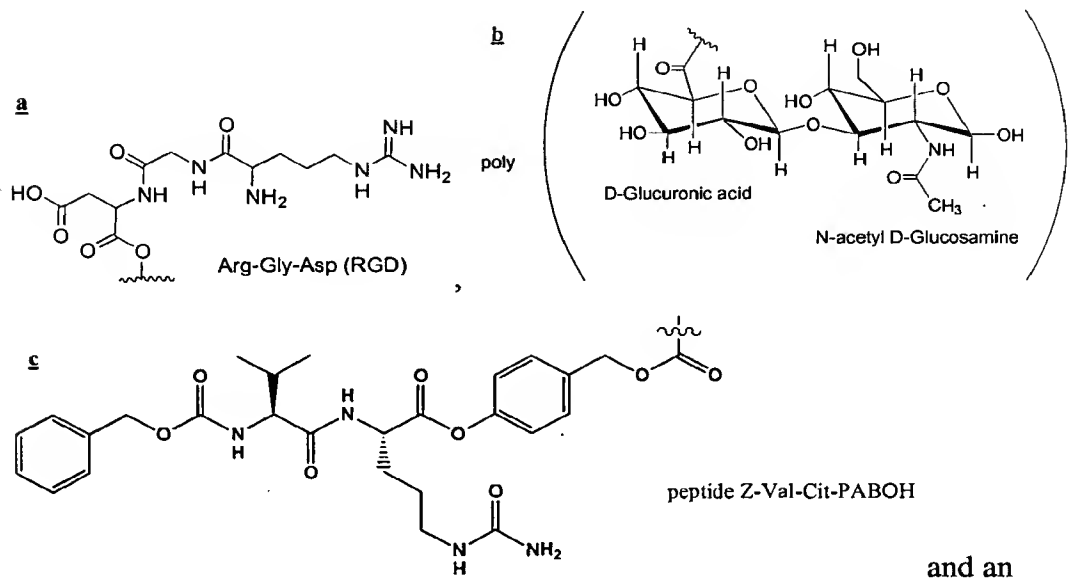
20 iv) R^4 is H, methyl, ethyl, $-CH_2OH$, or $-CH_2NH_2$;

v) each R^5 , R^6 and R^8 is independently H, methyl, ethyl, $-CH_2F$, $-CHF_2$, or $-CF_3$;

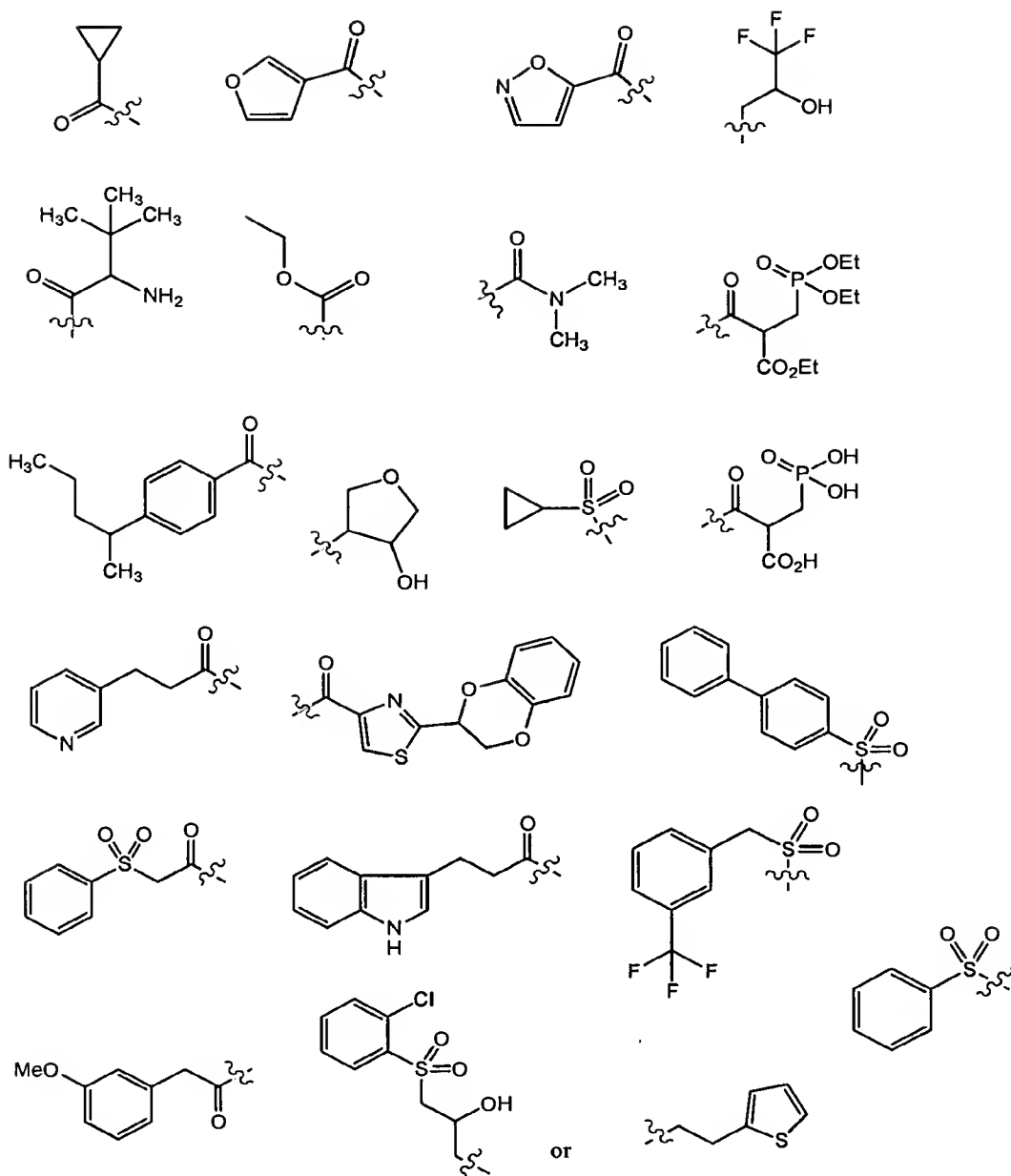
vi) R^7 is H, methyl, ethyl, CF_3 , $-CH(OH)CH_3$, $-CH_2OH$, or $-CH_2CH_2OH$; and

25 vii) R^{10} is H, methyl, ethyl, $-C(O)Me$, $-C(O)Et$, $-C(O)NMe_2$, $-C(O)-p\text{-OMe-phenyl}$, $-C(O)O\text{-phenyl}$, $-PO_3H_2$, $-P(O)(OMe)_2$, $-P(O)(OMe)OH$,

-P(O)(Me)OH, -P(O)(OH)OP(O)(OH)(OH), or R¹⁴; and R¹⁴ is selected from the group consisting of:



5 antibody; or R¹² is H, methyl, ethyl, R¹⁴,

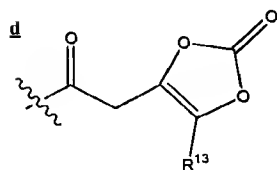


12. The compound of 6 or 7, wherein said compound has one or more of the features selected from the group consisting of:

- i) R^1 is H, $-N(R^o)_2$, $-SR^o$, or halo;
- ii) R^2 is H, alkyl, fluoroalkyl, $-N(R^o)_2$, or halo;
- iii) R^3 and R^4 are independently H or alkyl;
- iv) R^7 is H or alkyl;
- v) R^8 is H or C_{1-6} unsubstituted alkyl; and

vi) R^9 is $-OR^{10}$ and R^{10} is H, C_{1-6} unsubstituted alkyl, $-C(O)R$, $-PO_3M_x$, $-P(O)(alkyl)OM'$, $-(PO_3)_2M_y$, $-C(O)OR$, or a tumor-targeting moiety.

13. The compound of 12, wherein R^{10} is a polysaccharide, $-[C(O)CH(R)N(R)]_{2-3}-R$, an antibody, or



5 , wherein R^{13} is H, alkyl, or aryl.

14. The compound of 12, wherein said compound has one or more of the features selected from the group consisting of:

- i) R^1 is H, $-NH_2$, $-SCH_3$, or Cl;
- ii) R^2 is H, methyl, $-CF_3$, $-NH_2$, or Cl;
- 10 iii) R^3 , R^4 , R^7 and R^8 are independently H or methyl; and
- iv) R^9 is $-OR^{10}$ and R^{10} is H, H, $-PO_3H_2$, $-P(O)(OMe)_2$, $-P(O)(OMe)OH$, $-P(O)(Me)OH$, $-P(O)(OH)OP(O)(OH)(OH)$, or R^{14} ; and R^{14} is as defined in 11.

15 15. The compound of 1, wherein said compound is **IIa-1**, **IIa-2**, **IIa-3**, **IIa-4**, **IIa-5**, **IIa-6**, **IIa-7**, **IIa-8**, **IIa-9**, **IIa-10**, **IIa-11**, or **IIc-1**.

16. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of 1-15 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

17. The composition of 16, further comprising at least one chemotherapeutic agent, antiangiogenic agent or agent which modulates signaling associated with hypoxic conditions in a cell.

18. A method for inhibiting transketolase activity in a biological sample or a patient in need thereof comprising contacting said biological sample with or administering to said patient an effective amount of a compound of 1-15.

19. A method for reducing levels of ribulose/ribose-5-phosphate in a cell comprising administering to the cell an effective amount of a compound of 1-15.

20. A method for inhibiting nucleic acid synthesis in a cell comprising administering to the cell an effective amount of a compound of 1-15.

21. A method for inhibiting cell proliferation comprising administering to the cell an effective amount of a compound of 1-15.

5 22. A method for increasing apoptosis in a tumor cell comprising administering to the cell an effective amount of a compound of 1-15.

23. A method for reducing tumor growth in a patient comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of 1-15 or a composition of 16 to the patient in need thereof.

10 24. The method of 23, further comprising administering at least one chemotherapeutic agent, antiangiogenic agent or agent which modulates signaling associated with hypoxic conditions in a cell.

25. The method of 23 or 24, further comprising limiting thiamine concentrations in the patient during the administration step.

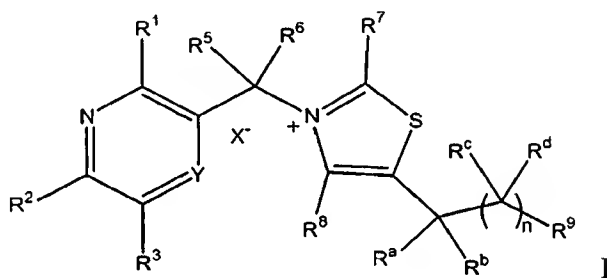
15 26. The method of 25, wherein the patient is on a reduced thiamine diet during the administration step.

27. The method of 26, wherein cellular thiamine concentrations are maintained at a level sufficient to avoid toxicity associated with thiamine deficiency.

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ABSTRACT

[0130] The present invention provides N-3'-pyridylmethyl or N-2'-pyrazinylmethyl thiazolium derivatives of formula **I** which are useful as transketolase inhibitors:



wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , Y , R^5 - R^9 , R^a - R^d , n and X^- are as defined herein. The present invention also provides pharmaceutical compositions comprising the compounds of formula **I**. The invention provides methods for inhibiting transketolase activity, reducing cellular ribose-5-phosphate levels, inhibiting nucleic acid synthesis, inhibiting cell proliferation and tumor cell growth in vitro and in vivo, stimulating apoptosis in tumor cells and treating cancer by administering a compound of formula **I** or a pharmaceutical composition thereof.

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